102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB2313

Introduced 2/26/2021, by Sen. Sara Feigenholtz

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

20 ILCS 505/5g new

Amends the Children and Family Services Act. Provides that beginning in State Fiscal Year 2023, and for every State fiscal year thereafter, the Department of Children and Family Services shall implement the reimbursement methodology outlined in a specified provision of the Illinois Administrative Code when calculating and determining the payment reimbursements for community-based agencies that contract with the Department to provide specified services, including, but not limited to: (i) residential services; (ii) specialized, adolescent, treatment, or other non-traditional or Home-of-Relative foster care services; (iii) intact family services; and (iv) teen parenting services. Provides that the payment reimbursement calculated and determined, as provided in the amendatory Act, shall be subject to appropriation. Effective immediately.

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FISCAL NOTE ACT MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

SB2313

1

AN ACT concerning State government.

2 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services' 3 stated mission is to protect children who are reported to be abused or neglected and to increase their families' capacity 4 to safely care for them; provide for the well-being of 5 6 children in their care; provide appropriate, permanent 7 families as quickly as possible for those children who cannot 8 safely return home; support early intervention and child abuse 9 prevention activities and work in partnerships with communities to fulfill this mission; and 10

11 WHEREAS, Community-based agencies provide care and 12 services for more than 80% of children involved with the child 13 welfare system on behalf of the State of Illinois, which has a 14 moral, legal, and financial responsibility to provide them 15 with the best possible care; and

16 WHEREAS, Community-based agencies serve populations of 17 children, youth, and families of color which are 18 disproportionately represented in the child welfare system; 19 and

20 WHEREAS, The Department of Children and Family Services 21 contracts with community-based agencies to provide services 22 for, but not limited to, children and youth in foster care, 23 intact families, and congregate care settings, at an SB2313 - 2 - LRB102 11739 KTG 17073 b established fixed reimbursement methodology which should

2 include all costs associated with the delivery of those 3 services; and

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4 WHEREAS, Providers of residential services, 5 non-traditional or Home-of-Relative foster care services, intact family services, and teen parenting services are 6 7 crucial in supporting children and families, especially those who face greater challenges due to structural racism, 8 9 pervasive poverty, and trauma exposure; and

10 WHEREAS, If such providers and their programs are 11 inadequately reimbursed, it can lead to the most vulnerable 12 children and families in society being left without connection 13 to necessary services; and

14 WHEREAS, The community-based agencies that provide these 15 vital services continually face rising operational and 16 personnel expenditures such as competitive employee wages, 17 increasing insurance premiums, employee benefits, occupancy, 18 utilities, and training and travel expenditures, yet the 19 reimbursements provided to the community-based agencies are 20 not adjusted for these costs-of-doing-business expenses; and

21 WHEREAS, Community-based agencies employ a diverse 22 workforce, a significant proportion of which identify as Black - 3 - LRB102 11739 KTG 17073 b

1 and Latinx; and

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2 WHEREAS, It is the obligation of the General Assembly to 3 promote the health, safety, and well-being of children, youth, 4 and families in the care of the Department of Children and 5 Family Services; and

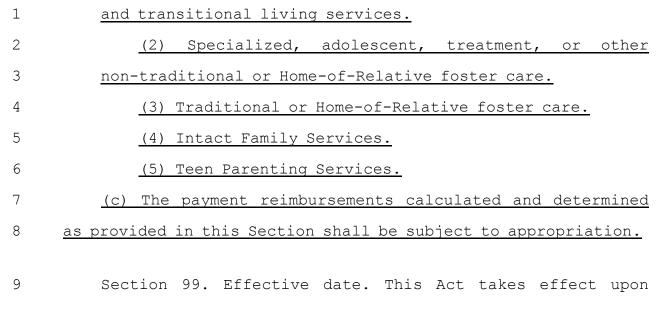
6 WHEREAS, Investing in community-based agencies will help 7 the General Assembly meet its obligation and improve outcomes 8 for all families to reach their full potential and to ensure a 9 stronger and more equitable future for the children, youth, 10 and families in the care of the Department of Children and 11 Family Services; and

12 WHEREAS, It is imperative that the General Assembly 13 establish а standardized annual process that includes 14 adjustments for the cost of doing business, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, and for evaluating and setting the 15 reimbursement for required child welfare services to ensure 16 17 sufficient resources to obtain the appropriate outcomes for children, youth, and families involved in the Illinois child 18 19 welfare system; therefore

20 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, 21 represented in the General Assembly:

Section 5. The Children and Family Services Act is amended 1 by adding Section 5g as follows: 2 3 (20 ILCS 505/5g new) 4 Sec. 5g. Payment for reimbursable services. 5 (a) As used in this Section, "consumer price index" means 6 the index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the 7 United States Department of Labor that measures the consumer 8 price index of all items less medical care in Midwest urban 9 areas, for all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted. 10 (b) Beginning in State Fiscal Year 2023, and for every State fiscal year thereafter, the Department shall implement 11 12 the reimbursement methodology outlined in 89 Ill. Adm. Code 356.50(f) when calculating and determining the payment 13 14 reimbursements for community-based agencies that contract with 15 the Department to provide any of the services enumerated in 89 Ill. Adm. Code 356.50(f) and in paragraph (1) of this 16 17 subsection. Payment reimbursements calculated and determined as provided in this Section shall include an amount equal to 18 19 any increase in the general inflation as determined by the 20 consumer price index. The contractual and grant services under 21 this Section to which the reimbursement methodology shall 22 apply include the following: 23 (1) Residential services, including child care institution, group home care, independent living services, 24

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10 becoming law.