



## DEPARTMENT OF AUDITS AND ACCOUNTS

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**Greg S. Griffin**  
STATE AUDITOR  
(404) 656-2174

January 6, 2017

The Honorable Sandra Scott  
State Representative  
611-D Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note  
House Bill (LC 41 0873)

Dear Representative Scott:

The bill would provide an additional method of legitimation to biological fathers of a child to whom they are obligated support. Under current Georgia law, legitimations are handled in Superior Court. The bill would allow the Department of Human Services (DHS) to grant the legitimation after investigation and a hearing on the conditions is conducted. The bill gives DHS the authority to create rules and regulations governing the new process.

The cost of the bill will be dependent on the number of legitimation applications received. DHS would need to add one staff position if the number of fathers who participate in the Paternal Accountability Court is a reasonable estimate of number who would apply for legitimation under the bill. The staff member would be responsible for application intake, conducting the required investigation, and representing DHS at child support hearings. The position would have an annual cost of approximately \$83,000 (salary, benefits, travel, etc.), with additional one-time costs of approximately \$4,000 for office furniture and telecommunications in the first year. Staffing and costs would increase if participation was significantly higher.

DHS could also incur additional costs through billings by the Office of State Administrative Hearings (OSAH). DHS currently pays a portion of the cost of salaries for OSAH employees involved in child support cases. If the number of cases under the bill are significant, it could increase OSAH billings, but we are unable to provide a reliable estimate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg S. Griffin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Greg S. Griffin  
State Auditor

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Teresa A. MacCartney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

Teresa A. MacCartney, Director  
Office of Planning and Budget