



Senate Fiscal Agency  
P.O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536



Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986

House Bill 5248 (Substitute H-2 as reported without amendment)  
House Bill 5249 (as reported without amendment)  
Sponsor: Representative Matt Hall (H.B. 5248)  
Representative Andrea K. Schroeder (H.B. 5249)  
House Committee: Families, Children, and Seniors  
Ways and Means  
Senate Committee: Families, Seniors and Veterans

## **CONTENT**

House Bill 5249 would amend the Children's Ombudsman Act to do the following:

- Require the Children's Ombudsman to conduct a preliminary investigation, instead of an investigation, for all child fatality cases that occurred or are alleged to have occurred because of child abuse or neglect.
- After completing a preliminary investigation, require the Ombudsman to determine whether a full investigation was necessary, and if so, require the Ombudsman to open a full investigation.

House Bill 5248 (H-2) would amend the Children's Ombudsman Act to require the Ombudsman, after redacting confidential information, to release his or her findings, recommendations, and the agency responses to the public not more than 30 days after the case closure date of a case investigated by the Office of Children's Ombudsman (OCO).

MCL 722.929 (H.B. 5248)  
722.922 & 722.926 (H.B. 5249)

Legislative Analyst: Tyler VanHuyse

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

House Bill 5249 could have a negligible fiscal impact on the State. The new provision would require the OCO, in all child fatality cases, to conduct a preliminary investigation to determine if a full investigation were warranted. This could result in fewer full investigations resulting in a slight savings to the OCO; however the costs of the required preliminary investigations could negate those savings.

House Bill 5248 (H-2) likely would have a significant fiscal impact on the OCO in the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget. It would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

The Office would have to publish the required documents online. The cost of posting and maintaining documents includes fixed as well as variable costs based on the number of times the document is viewed or downloaded. As a result, the magnitude of the impact would be determined by the number of documents published and the number of times each document was retrieved. Initial cost estimates indicate additional annual expenses of between several hundred and several thousand dollars This would represent an increase of 1% or more in office support costs based on current appropriations.

Date Completed: 7-29-20

Fiscal Analyst: Joe Carrasco  
Elizabeth Raczowski

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Bill Analysis @ [www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa)

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