

OFFICE OF POLICY AND LEGAL ANALYSIS

Date: April 14, 2021
To: Joint Standing Committee on Health & Human Services
From: Anna Broome, Legislative Analyst

LD 1091 An Act To Improve the Long-term Outcomes for Youth Transitioning from State Care by Raising the Upper Age Limit for Voluntary Support Eligibility

SUMMARY: This bill raises the upper age limit from 20 years of age to 22 years of age for voluntary participation in extended care for persons who attained 18 years of age while in the care and custody of the State. It makes a corresponding change in the transition grant program for individuals exiting extended care and pursuing a postsecondary education by changing the requirement that to be eligible to participate in the program an individual must be at least 21 years of age to a requirement that an individual must be at least 23 years of age.

ISSUES FROM TESTIMONY:

- DHHS NFNA: December 2020 Consolidated Appropriations Act included the Supporting Foster Youth and Families through the Pandemic Act included temporary suspension of aging out of foster care and permitting re-entry of youth who have left foster care – until September 30, 2021. Includes funding. Not opposed to increasing age but this gives an opportunity to study the impact with federal funds (will require state funds in the long term).
- What happens in October when the funding ends?

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COMMITTEE:

- DHHS plans for outreach with the Consolidated Appropriations Act law and funding.
- ACF instructions: <https://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ACYF-CB-PI-21-04.pdf>

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not yet received.