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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR <u>Gallegos/Sanchez</u>	LAST UPDATED _____
	ORIGINAL DATE <u>3/7/2025</u>
SHORT TITLE <u>Safe Haven Infant Boxes</u>	BILL NUMBER <u>Senate Bill 499</u>
	ANALYST <u>Hernandez</u>

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT* (dollars in thousands)

Agency/Program	FY25	FY26	FY27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
CYFD	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Indeterminate but minimal	Recurring	General Fund

Parentheses () indicate expenditure decreases.
 *Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Sources of Information

LFC Files

Agency Analysis was Solicited but Not Received From
 Department of Public Safety (DPS)
 Office of Family Representation and Advocacy (OFRA)
 Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD)
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Senate Bill 499

Senate Bill 499 (SB499) amends the Safe Haven for Infants Act. SB499 requires that unless there is actual or suspected child abuse or neglect, the parent who relinquishes the infant in a safe haven box will remain anonymous. Immediately following a 90-day waiting period, the Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) shall terminate the parent’s rights. SB499 makes clear that CYFD must file a petition for custody of the infant as if the infant were abandoned. Finally, the Department must make reasonable efforts to determine if the child is Indian and subject to the Indian Child Welfare Act.

This bill does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No department or agency submitted fiscal analysis. LFC staff assume that there is an indeterminate but minimal fiscal impact as SB499 should not require large administrative changes on behalf of CYFD or any other agency.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

There are currently safe haven baby boxes in Belen, Española, Hobbs, Carlsbad, and Alamogordo.

ALTERNATIVES

An alternative to safe haven baby boxes would be to allow mothers to give birth anonymously in hospitals. This would ensure that both the mother and child receive the health care they need.

AEH/hj/SL2