

**SENATE FISCAL AGENCY
 ADMINISTRATIVE RULES FISCAL NOTE**

DATE: April 20, 2022
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<u>TRANS. NO.</u>	<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
22-20	Department of Health and Human Services - Economic Stability Administration	Family Independence Program

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed rule set would allow a telephone interview option (in addition to an in-person interview) for a determination of eligibility for the Family Independence program. To the extent there is an increase in technology costs and case management tools needed to offer both in person and telephone-based interviews, there would be a fiscal impact to the State and no fiscal impact to local units of government.

By not requiring face to face interviews for Family Independent Program program cases, there is a potential risk that there could be an increase in public assistance fraud. To the extent that individuals who apply for benefits, interview over the telephone, and receive benefits are not eligible for benefits, there could be a cost to the State to investigate and recoup ineligible public assistance payments.

The RIS 2021-87 HS states that under the proposed rule set: "The change also saves the State funding." with no further discussion or support to indicate where savings would be generated from. The next section the analysis asks for the fiscal impact on the agency with an estimate of the cost or potential savings. The response to the prompt states that "The cost to the agency is minimal...". The discussion in the RIS seems to be inconsistent in this respect stating there is minimal cost in one section while also observing a savings of state funding in another.