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## ***Detailed Fiscal Analysis***

This bill creates the appropriation line item 400-513, Police Protection, to be used by the Department of Human Services to fund contracts between public children services agencies (PCSA) and law enforcement agencies. These contracts will support the provision of law enforcement officers to accompany employees of the PCSA who conduct investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect. These contracted services are to be used by the PCSA when PCSA employees believe that their safety is in jeopardy.

The bill requires the Department of Human Services to distribute these funds to the counties based upon a formula that takes into consideration the total number of child abuse and neglect cases investigated in the county compared to the number of such cases statewide for the most recent fiscal year.

What is not clear from the bill is whether funding is to be distributed to all the counties, irrespective of whether or not they have entered into a contract with a local law enforcement agency. LBO assumes that these dollars will only be distributed to PCSAs that enter into police protection contracts. LBO also assumes that if all counties do not enter into such contracts expenditures will be less than the \$5 million appropriated by the bill. If a county PCSA opts to enter into a contract with a law enforcement agency to provide protection for PCSA employees, the result will be an increase in revenues and expenditures for the county.

□ *LBO staff: Clarence Campbell, Senior Analyst*

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