



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 16-3668, **Version:** 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

URGING THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF ILLINOIS STATE GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE PAYMENTS FOR CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES AND VARIOUS LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES FOR SERVICES RENDERED FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT

WHEREAS, for many years the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services ["HFS"] has contracted with The Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the Office of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County and the Cook County Sheriff ["Local Offices"] to assist HFS in meeting its child support enforcement obligations under state and federal law, including federal consent decrees; and

WHEREAS, the services provided by the Local Offices for HFS include establishing and insuring that orders of child support and parentage are entered, modified and enforced against non-custodial parents, including criminal prosecutions for delinquent payments; litigation; obtaining support and arrearage orders; performance of summonses and body attachments; expedited treatment of support cases; and prompt processing and reporting of support orders. All of these services are to the primary benefit of our most vulnerable citizens, our children, and if not performed in a timely manner would have a very detrimental effect on the children's well-being for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, Cook County, based on HFS' commitment to pay the Local Offices pursuant to their contract, budgeted \$18,594,125.00 for the Local Offices' HFS support function for the current budget year [2016], with the understanding that this amount would be reimbursed by HFS [a portion of which is paid by State monies and the remainder paid by Federal monies]; and

WHEREAS, HFS has made no reimbursement to the Local Offices since July 1, 2015 and further if HFS does not pay the State portion of amounts due [approximately \$6M] for the contracts expiring on June 30, 2016, Cook County will permanently lose the Federal portion [approximately \$12M] of monies due; and

WHEREAS, due to the fact that HFS has not reimbursed the Local Offices as anticipated, the County now faces an \$18 million shortfall in its budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Cook County Board of Commissioners that we strongly urge the Legislative and Executive Branches of Illinois State Government to work together to insure payment for contracts between HFS and the Local Office for the present budget year prior to June 30, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Bruce Rauner, Senate President John Cullerton, House Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno, House Minority Leader Jim Durkin.