

HB 775-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0798

11/05

HOUSE BILL ***775-FN***

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers.

SPONSORS: Rep. Nelson, Rock. 13; Rep. DeSimone, Rock. 18; Rep. Rice, Hills. 38; Rep. Scherr, Rock. 26; Rep. D. Paige, Carr. 1

COMMITTEE: Children and Family Law

ANALYSIS

This bill directs the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 New Subdivision; Supervised Visitation Centers. Amend RSA 170-G by inserting after section
2 21 the following new subdivision:

3 Supervised Visitation Centers

4 170-G:22 Supervised Visitation Centers.

5 I. The department of health and human services shall contract with one or more qualified
6 organizations to establish and operate a supervised visitation center in each county. The centers
7 shall:

8 (a) Adhere to the Guiding Principles of Safe Havens; Supervised Visitation and Safe
9 Exchange Grant Program developed by the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence
10 Against Women.

11 (b) Seek community input regarding the center's planning and operation as well as
12 technical assistance and training from organizations with expertise in the field of supervised
13 visitation and/or other national technical assistance providers.

14 II. The department shall publish a request for proposals (RFP) to support a supervised
15 visitation center in each county. The RFP shall require applicants to provide a detailed plan and
16 budget to meet the anticipated needs of the county. Budgets shall address wages, benefits, on-site
17 law enforcement, office space, training, and insurance. Plans shall address safety procedures as well
18 as policies related to payment for services and clients to be served.

19 2 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

HB 775-FN- FISCAL NOTE
 AS INTRODUCED

AN ACT directing the department of health and human services to issue a request for proposals for supervised visitation centers.

FISCAL IMPACT: This bill does not provide funding, nor does it authorize new positions.

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028
Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	None			
Expenditures*	\$0	Indeterminable Increase up to \$5,000,000	Indeterminable \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000	Indeterminable \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	General Fund			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill directs the Department of Health and Human (DHHS) services to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for supervised visitation centers.

The DHHS assumes the RFP would require the responding organization(s) to provide a detailed plan and budget to open and operate a supervised visitation center in each of the 10 counties in NH. Without the detailed plans and budgets, the DHHS is unable to accurately estimate the cost of contracting with these entities. The DHHS indicates that there hasn't been a state funded visitation center in NH to use as a fiscal reference for potential costs and funding needs. The DHHS states all supervised visitation centers in the state have closed, except the Strafford County Visitation Center which operates minimally and is operated by the county. In addition, a potential resource for funding information, the New Hampshire Family Visitation and Access Cooperative, is also no longer active.

The DHHS indicates, while the cost of the bill is indeterminable, it estimates the first year cost of opening and operating 10 supervised visitation centers would be greater than \$5,000,000 and ongoing annual costs would range from \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000. These estimates are based on

previous news articles regarding the closure of various centers. The DHHS assumes each of the 10 centers would require the following:

- Purchase or rent of a building or location.
- Construction and/or refurbishing and furnishings of each building to meet the needs of the center including waiting room, visitation rooms, kitchen for mealtime visits, etc.
- Security cameras and system throughout the building.
- A security metal detector.
- Staff including: a Program Director, a Security Guard, Visitation Chaperones, and Support Staff.
- Training.
- Insurance.
- IT costs for infrastructure including a case management system and scheduling software.

The DHHS states the bill would not have a fiscal impact on the Bureau of Child Support Services or the IV-D program and its related statutes and regulations.

The DHHS indicates it could absorb the operational costs associated with issuing an RFP for the contractor(s) to propose detailed plans and line-item budget costs as described in the bill

It is assumed that any fiscal impact would occur after FY 2025.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Health and Human Services