



OFFICE OF THE CONTROLLER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Todd Rydstrom
Deputy Controller

Ms. Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place Room 244
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

January 21, 2022

RE: File 211284 – Charter amendment to establish a Children’s Agency and Commission

Dear Ms. Calvillo,

Should the proposed Charter amendment be approved by the voters, in my opinion, it would have a minimal impact on the cost of government, beginning in fiscal year 2024-2025.

The proposed amendment would establish a new Children’s Agency to administer the City’s existing departments and offices that provide services for children and youth. It would establish a Children’s Commission to provide oversight for the Agency. Finally, it would limit the City’s authority to allocate discretionary funds to the San Francisco Unified School District.

The proposed Children’s Agency would bring together three existing entities - the current Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Office of Early Care and Education and the Children and Families First Commission. These offices each have funding sources, allocations and program and service requirements specified in the Charter and codes. These requirements would not be materially changed by the proposal.

The proposed amendment specifies a new Children’s Commission consisting of seven members—four appointed by the Mayor and three appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The new Commission would increase the cost of government by approximately \$350,000 annually. These funds would provide for a commission secretary, commissioner compensation, and costs such as preparing public materials and broadcasting hearings on SFGovTV.

The amendment specifies new planning and reporting requirements. There would be a new five-year planning and funding cycle for the property tax set-aside known as the Children’s Fund, a required proposal and reporting process for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) for funding from the current Public Education Enrichment Fund, and a required annual State of the City’s Children report from the Mayor’s Office.

Finally, the measure would restrict the City’s ability to appropriate discretionary funds to SFUSD. In some years, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor have allocated City general fund contributions to SFUSD over and above the funding required by the Charter. The measure would prohibit the City from appropriating such funds unless the Board of Education submits to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors a written certification, with an accompanying report, stating that the School District and the Board of Education have complied with a set of governance requirements.

Sincerely,

Ben Stevenson

for
Ben Rosenfield
Controller

Note: This analysis reflects our understanding of the proposal as of the date shown. At times further information is provided to us which may result in revisions being made to this analysis before the final Controller’s statement appears in the Voter Information Pamphlet.