

**Brief Summary of the Young Adult Voluntary Extension of Care Act**  
**S0669/H5807**

The Youth Adult Voluntary Extension of Care Act creates a voluntary program for youth who exit DCYF care without permanency at their 18th birthday or prior to their 21st birthday. Currently 100-150 youth exit care. The proposed legislation calls for a 12-month planning process prior to implementation, so the program would go into effect July 1, 2018 with no fiscal impact in 2017-18. It is anticipated that during any three year cycle, some 225 youth would participate.

Under the proposed program, youth exiting care would enter a voluntary program overseen by the Family Court. Services and resources would be provided through DCYF and community- based agencies. The exact nature of these services will be determined during the planning process, but would include financial support and a range of appropriate housing and social services. The services would be age appropriate for a young adult population in their transition to adulthood. Some youth enrolled in eligible school programs would be covered. The proposed program is voluntary, so a youth may choose to leave care at any time and/or return.

A small group of young adults remain in care between 18 and 21 because they have been deemed to have serious emotional disturbance, an intellectual or developmental disability, or other issue. Those youth would not be eligible unless they are discharged from care.

Cost estimates are being worked on but will depend on the final program design. The state is already investing in the YESS program and health coverage is being provided at this point under the ACA, so those costs are backed out of any new expenses. It is expected that 60% or more of youth will require services that are very similar to the low-cost YESS program, with the remaining population requiring varying additional levels of support.