153rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL NOTE

BILL:	**HOUSE BILL NO. 341**
SPONSOR:	**Representative Chukwuocha**
DESCRIPTION:	**AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 29 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO CHILD SUPPORT.**

Assumptions:

1. This Act becomes effective upon signature by the Governor.

2. This Act amends Title 29 of the Delaware Code by creating a presumption that parents are not financially liable for the care, maintenance, and support of children in the custody or care of the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families (DSCYF), unless the Family Court determines that such payments would not impede reunification efforts.

3. DSCYF is currently authorized to collect child support payments from parents for children in state care and recovers approximately $140,000 annually through this process. These collections are deposited into the DSCYF's Trust Fund account and are expended by the DSCYF's Division of Family Services.

4. It is assumed that the majority of these collections would no longer be realized under the proposed statutory change, as Family Court findings allowing payment would be limited to cases where reunification is not adversely affected. General Funds would be necessary to offset the Department's loss of these payments.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2027:	$140,000
Fiscal Year 2028:	$140,000
Fiscal Year 2029:	$140,000

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Office of the Controller General