

Fiscal Estimate - 2003 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number **03-0041/4** Introduction Number **AB-428**

Subject
Clergy abuse; reporting of child abuse

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
 - Increase Existing Revenues
 - Decrease Existing Revenues
 - Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes
 - No
 - Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
- Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
 - Towns
 - Counties
 - School Districts
 - Village
 - Others
 - WTCS Districts
 - Cities

Fund Sources Affected **Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**
 GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS

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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 7/18/2003

LRB Number	03-0041/4	Introduction Number	AB-428	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Clergy abuse; reporting of child abuse					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, persons of certain professions, such as school teachers and physicians, who have reasonable cause to suspect that a child seen by them in the course of their professional duties has been abused or neglected or has been threatened with abuse or neglect and that abuse or neglect of the child will occur, are required to report the abuse, or threatened abuse, to the appropriate county department, or, in Milwaukee County, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW).

In addition to current law requirements, this bill requires members of the clergy to report sexual abuse or threatened sexual abuse of a child. However, a member of a clergy is not required to report information that he or she receives through confidential communications made to him or her privately or in a confessional setting.

This bill may increase reports of sexual abuse of a child to county human service departments, or in Milwaukee County, BMCW. The additional reports could increase assessments and investigations of child abuse by county child protective service workers, thus increasing costs for county human service departments, or, in Milwaukee County, BMCW. However, because the number of reports of sexual abuse that would be made by members of the clergy is unknown, the exact fiscal effect of this bill cannot be determined.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications