

### Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

Original       Updated       Corrected       Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>05-0925/1</b>	<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>AB-80</b>
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<b>Subject</b> False statements regarding child abuse or neglect
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<b>Fiscal Effect</b>  <b>State:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</span> <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<b>Local:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue      5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts

<b>Fund Sources Affected</b> <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	<b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>
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<b>Agency/Prepared By</b> DHFS/ Nicole Groth (608) 266-9364	<b>Authorized Signature</b> Freda Ellen Bove (608) 266-2907	<b>Date</b> 2/24/2005
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**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**

**DHFS 2/24/2005**

LRB Number <b>05-0925/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-80</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Subject</b> False statements regarding child abuse or neglect		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

Under current law, persons of certain professions, such as school teachers, social workers 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 either the appropriate county department, or, in Milwaukee County, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW); or the sheriff or city, village, or town police department.

This bill would make it a crime to knowingly make a false statement alleging the abuse or neglect of a child to a person who is required to report child abuse or neglect. A person who violates this prohibition may be fined up to \$1,000, imprisoned up to 90 days, or both.

In 2003 counties and BMCW received 40,473 reports of child abuse or neglect. This bill may decrease false reports of child abuse and neglect made to a person required to report, thus decreasing reports of child abuse and neglect made to law enforcement, county human service departments, or, in Milwaukee County, BMCW. Any decrease in reports would decrease the number of investigations and assessments of child abuse or neglect by county child protective service workers, therefore reducing costs for county human service departments or BMCW. However, because the number of knowingly false reports made to mandated reporters is assumed to comprise only a small percentage of reports made each year, this bill will not have a significant effect on DHFS or county costs.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**