

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 11/23/2005

LRB Number	05-3811/1	Introduction Number	AB-826	Estimate Type	Original
Description Prohibiting a person responsible for a child's welfare while the child is being transported in a child care vehicle from leaving the child unattended and providing penalties					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation in criminal cases and other specified proceedings in which the loss of personal liberty or parental rights may occur. For adult clients, the SPD must complete a financial eligibility evaluation before appointing an attorney. SPD services are constitutionally required because in the case types handled by SPD, a defendant without the financial means to hire an attorney has the right to have an attorney appointed. Therefore, any bill that would increase the number of cases handled by SPD would increase SPD costs.

This bill creates new criminal offenses for which SPD will be required to appoint attorneys. The projected SPD cost for each new felony case that would occur is \$573.90 (based on FY05 costs, assuming that the relative complexity of defending cases under this law does not differ significantly from average felonies in the Class D-I classifications).

Costs to counties will result from appointment of counsel for defendants ineligible for SPD, but constitutionally entitled to representation under State v. Dean. Incarceration costs will also occur for defendants held in jail (both pending court hearings and serving sentences).

We are not aware of any existing data to predict the number of new cases resulting from this bill, but we could track this number in the future.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications