

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DHFS 8/31/2005

LRB Number	05-1852/1	Introduction Number	SB-285	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Child in need of protection or services jurisdiction for educational neglect					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The compulsory school attendance law requires that a person having under his or her control a child six years of age or over cause the child to attend school regularly during the full period and hours that the school in which the child should be enrolled is in session until the end of the school term in which the child becomes 18 years of age, unless the child has an acceptable excuse for not attending school. Additionally, current law grants the juvenile court exclusive jurisdiction over a juvenile alleged to be in need of protection or services (JIPS) on the grounds of habitual truancy (absent without an acceptable excuse for part or all of 5 or more days a semester).

Under current law, the juvenile court may determine that a child is in need of protection and services (CHIPS) on various grounds, including abandonment, child abuse and neglect, and substantial risk of child abuse and neglect. This bill creates grounds for the child to be judged in need of protection and services if the child is absent from school without an acceptable excuse for part or all of any day on which school is held during a school semester and all of the following conditions are met: 1) the child is six years of age or over and enrolled or should be enrolled in grades kindergarten to five, 2) the truancy is the result of the person having control of the child not causing the child to attend school regularly rather than the result of the child's intentional refusal to attend school, and 3) appropriate school personnel have met or attempted to meet with the child's parent or guardian, provided an opportunity for educational counseling, and evaluated the child for learning and social problems.

The creation of educational neglect as a new CHIPS ground would allow child welfare agencies to remove a child from his or her home because of the parent's failure to ensure that their child attended school as required. Agencies would be responsible for providing these families with the child welfare services that CHIPS cases receive, including permanency planning, court appearances, and home visits.

This bill may increase the number of children who are found to be in need of protection or services (CHIPS), thus increasing the child welfare caseload for county human service departments, or, in Milwaukee County, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW). Any increase in the child welfare caseload would increase the workload and staffing needs of child welfare agencies, therefore increasing costs for county human service departments and BMCW. During the 2003-04 school year, 18,040 children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade in the state public school system were habitually truant from school. Approximately 60% of these children attended school in Milwaukee County. For purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that half (9,020) of these cases would be resolved within the school as provided in the bill, through appropriate school personnel meeting with the child's parent or guardian, providing an opportunity for educational counseling, and evaluating the child for learning and social problems.

In 2003, 15.6% of child neglect referrals to county child welfare agencies were substantiated by child protective services staff. Approximately half (48.9%) of these cases were opened and a court petition or consent decree was filed. Based on these assumptions, it is estimated that an additional 688 children annually would be found to be in need of protection or services under this bill. For the purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that these children would not otherwise be involved in the child welfare system.

BMCW provides services to juveniles who have been determined to be in need of protection or services because of truancy through the Family Intervention and Support Services Unit (FISS) at a rate of \$940 per case per month. For purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that this rate would apply to children who have been determined to be in need of protection or services because of educational neglect for an average case length of three months. It is estimated that the total statewide cost of adding educational neglect to child in need of protection or services jurisdiction is \$1,940,200. Because 60% of children who are habitually truant reside in Milwaukee County and would be referred to BMCW, the total fiscal effect to the Department is \$1,164,100 GPR. Therefore, this provision would increase costs to county departments of human or social

services in the balance of the state by \$776,100 per year.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2005 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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Subject			
Child in need of protection or services jurisdiction for educational neglect			
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes		\$	
(FTE Position Changes)			
State Operations - Other Costs			
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations	1,164,100		
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$1,164,100		\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR	1,164,100		
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)			
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev	
GPR Taxes	\$		\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
TOTAL State Revenues	\$		\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>	
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$1,164,100		\$776,100
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$		\$
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature		Date
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