

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 6/2/2008

LRB Number	07-2939/2	Introduction Number	SB-542	Estimate Type	Original
Description Public disclosure of certain information when abuse or neglect results in a child dying or being placed in serious or critical condition or when a child under 13 years of age has been the victim of sexual assault					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 542 requires that the Department transmits information regarding egregious incidents of neglect or abuse to the Legislature and makes this information available to the public. The bill defines an egregious incident as one in which a child dies, is placed in serious or critical condition, or, if the child is under 13 years of age, is the victim of sexual assault.

The bill requires local agencies that suspect an egregious incident has occurred to transmit information regarding the incident to the Department within two days of the suspected incident. The Department must submit a report based on this information and any additional information from the statewide automated child welfare information system to the Legislature within six weeks of receiving the information from the local agency. The report to the Legislature must include the following: information on the incident, the victim, and the person suspected of the abuse or neglect; the child welfare service history of the victim, the victim's family, and the person suspected of the abuse or neglect; the findings on which the agency bases its suspicion that an egregious incident has occurred; and the services provided to the victim's family subsequent to the incident.

Currently, the Department is permitted by statute to disclose limited information about egregious incidents under certain circumstances. The bill mandates disclosure of egregious incidents and broadens the information that would be disclosed. In 2007, the Department completed 13 on-site or records reviews of incidents that either resulted in a child death or serious injury. The requirement to report on all egregious incidents will significantly increase workload for the Department. In 2007, there were 32 child deaths and 30 egregious incidents, excluding sexual assaults, that did not result in death. In 2006, the most recent year for which information is available, the Department recorded 1107 substantiated sexual abuse allegations for children under 12 years of age. The increased workload associated with reports for these 1,156 additional reviews would require 5.6 FTE, which would increase costs by \$471,600 (\$364,100 GPR, \$107,500 FED).

The Department estimates that the average report would require 6 hours of a human services program coordinator's time, 1.5 hours of administrative staff time, 2 hours of a section chief's time, and 0.5 hours of a bureau director's time. The completion of reports for all egregious incidents entails gathering the information from counties and the state automated child welfare system, potentially contacting local caseworkers, writing the report, and supervisory review of the report.

The timeframe for reporting to the Legislature – six weeks after receiving information from the county – affects the expected workload. Current policy allows 60 days (approximately eight and a half weeks) for the substantiation of maltreatment. The requirement of a report prior to 60 days may result in counties reporting cases that subsequently are found to be unsubstantiated. In addition, the information regarding investigation of the incident and subsequent activities may not be inputted into the statewide automated child welfare information system within the first six weeks. As a result, Department staff may need to contact county staff to ensure all relevant and required information is included in the report to the Legislature.

County child welfare agencies also would experience increased costs resulting from increased workload. The collection and transmittal of information for all suspected egregious incidents within two days of the incident would require county caseworkers to increase the time spent gathering information on suspected incidents. The limited period would require counties to gather information prior to determining whether suspected incidents were substantiated cases of neglect and abuse.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Incidents

	Current Reviews	Expected Reviews	Difference
Deaths	5	32	27
Egregious, non-deaths	8	30	22
Sexual Abuse	0	1107	1107
TOTAL			1156

Additional Workload

	Time per case (hrs.)	Annual Time (hrs)	FTE	Av Hourly Salary	Salary	Fringe	Total Cost	GPR	FED
Human Services Program Coordinator	6	6,936	3.3	26,751	\$185,541	\$85,757	\$271,300	\$219,800	\$51,500
Human Services Supervisor	2	2,312	1.1	33,133	\$76,603	\$35,406	\$112,000	\$56,000	\$56,000
Human Services Manager	0.5	578	0.3	41,594	\$24,041	\$11,112	\$35,200	\$35,200	\$0
Administrative Support Assistant	1.5	1,734	0.8	20,935	\$36,300	\$16,778	\$53,100	\$53,100	\$0
TOTAL			5.6				\$471,600	\$364,100	\$107,500

Assumptions

Fringe Rate	0.4622
Human Services Program Coordinator Salary	26,751
FED Pct.	19%
Human Services Supervisor Salary	33,133
FED Pct.	50%
Human Services Manager Salary	41,594
FED Pct.	0%
Administrative Support Assistant Salary	20,935
FED Pct.	0%

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2007 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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Description Public disclosure of certain information when abuse or neglect results in a child dying or being placed in serious or critical condition or when a child under 13 years of age has been the victim of sexual assault			
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		\$471,600	\$
(FTE Position Changes)		(5.6 FTE)	
State Operations - Other Costs			
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
TOTAL State Costs by Category		\$471,600	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR		364,100	
FED		107,500	
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			
		State	Local
NET CHANGE IN COSTS		\$471,600	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE		\$	\$
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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