

Fiscal Estimate - 2015 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 15-1027/2	Introduction Number AB-0039
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Description
 Jurisdiction and venue in adoption proceedings and investigation of suitability of a home for adoption of a child

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs		5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 3/9/2015

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Description Jurisdiction and venue in adoption proceedings and investigation of suitability of a home for adoption of a child					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill extends jurisdiction and venue to allow a proceeding for adoption or adoptive placement of a child to be in the county in which the child or proposed adoptive parent resides. While some individual counties may be impacted, this change is not expected to result in any significant impact on counties.

This bill also requires all counties, licensed adoption agencies, and BMCW to use a standardized qualitative assessment system for the home study that is approved by DCF.

It is assumed all counties, licensed adoption agencies, and BMCW would use the California-based Consortium for Children's SAFE instrument to complete this process.

The bill would not require any additional home studies. Rather, the bill would require a standardized assessment system for the home studies conducted. As a result, no additional DCF or county staff to conduct a home study would be required under this bill.

Because a number of counties and Child Placing Agencies (CPAs) already use the SAFE instrument and workers have received SAFE training, only county and CPA workers that have not yet received SAFE training must be trained. Under the bill, an additional 41 county workers and 53 Child Placing Agency (CPA) staff, including 23.5 supervisors, would require initial and ongoing SAFE training.

The costs and terms for SAFE training are based on the current SAFE training fee schedule published by the California-based Consortium for Children. The fee schedule provides information on mandatory staff training (\$250 per person), mandatory supervisor training (\$1,500 per day plus materials fee), and SAFE refresher training (\$1,500 per day). DCF currently pays the Consortium for Children \$1,000 per year for an open-ended licensing fee to use the SAFE home study methodology. Under the bill, because the use of the SAFE instrument would be expanded for use statewide, the licensing fee would cost DCF an additional \$500 per year.

Workers and supervisors using the SAFE instrument are required to attend mandatory SAFE training, including an initial two-day training course and a one-day supervisor training session. Because the training would be required statewide under the bill, a \$1,500 annual refresher training course would also be necessary. To address annual worker turnover (assuming a rate of 30%), initial training courses would be held annually to train new staff. Total training costs for the additional 41 county workers and 53 Child Placing Agency (CPA) staff, including 23.5 supervisors would be \$28,300 in year one, and \$10,700 ongoing.

When a clinical assessment is necessary, with the exception of adoption by a stepparent, the costs for clinical assessments range from \$1,000 to \$10,000, and would average \$4,000 per assessment. Clinical assessments are currently occurring in 1% of adoption cases. Costs for annual clinical assessments are not expected to increase (compared to costs under existing conditions) as agencies may currently request such an assessment under the administrative rules if they have concerns.

Total costs (assuming continued use of the SAFE instrument) would be \$28,300 in year one, and \$10,700 ongoing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications