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Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session								
🛛 Original	ginal 🔲 Updated			Supplemental				
LRB Number 17-493	3/1	Introduction N	lumber 3	SB-657				
Description a parent's right to counsel in a child in need of protection or services proceeding, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation								
Fiscal Effect								
State: No State Fiscal Effect Indeterminate Appropriations Decrease Existing Appropriations Create New Appropri	Reven Decrea Reven	ase Existing ues		sts - May be possible hin agency's budget ☐No sts				
Local: No Local Government (Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mar 2. Decrease Costs Permissive Mar	3. 🔲 Increas Indatory 🔲 Permis 4. 🛄 Decrea	se Revenue (Types of Loca Government L Affected Towns Counties School Districts					
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations								
GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS								
Agency/Prepared By	A	uthorized Signature		Date				
DCF/ ELIZABETH ELGAR (608) 422-6344		im Swissdorf (608) 422	1/8/2018					

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DCF 1/8/2018

LRB Number	17-4933/1	Introduction Number	SB-657	Estimate Type	Original		
Description							
a parent's right to counsel in a child in need of protection or services proceeding, providing an exemption							
from emergency rule procedures, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation							

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill removes the prohibition on assigning legal counsel to a parent in a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) proceeding, and creates a five county pilot program to be administered by the State Public Defenders Office (SPD) that creates a right to counsel for such a parent. The parent could be assigned an attorney by SPD (if indigent), could be appointed an attorney by the court, could retain an attorney of his or her own choosing, or could waive his or her right to an attorney.

Under the bill, the county pilot program creating a right to counsel for a non-petitioning parent in a CHIPS proceeding would sunset on June 30, 2021. The bill specifies that the pilot program will include Brown, Outagamie, Racine, Kenosha, and Winnebago counties.

By January 1, 2021, the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and SPD must each submit a report to the Joint Finance Committee and each house of the legislature regarding the costs of and data from implementing the pilot program.

This bill could increase costs to counties if the courts decide to assign counsel to a parent who does not qualify financially for representation by a state public defender, but cannot afford to pay for counsel. DCF would be able to absorb costs related to the required report.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications