

FISCAL ESTIMATE

DOA-2048 N(R10/96)

- X ORIGINAL UPDATED
 CORRECTED SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.
AB 526/LRB-2418/1

Amendment No. if Applicable

Subject
 Uniform adoption act

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

- Increase Existing Appropriation Increase Existing Revenues
 Decrease Existing Appropriation Decrease Existing Revenues
 Create New Appropriation

X Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget Yes No

Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

1. Increase Costs
 Permissive Mandatory
 2. Decrease Costs
 Permissive Mandatory

3. Increase Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory
 4. Decrease Revenues
 Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:

- Towns Villages Cities
 Counties Others _____
 School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- X GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

s. 20.550(1)(d)

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill makes various changes to the laws related to adoption and termination of parental rights. Enactment of this bill would affect the State Public Defender's Office (SPD) as follows:

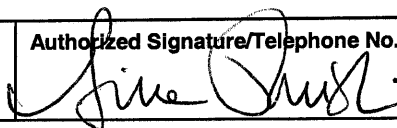
The bill would grant the right to counsel to parents involved in voluntary termination of parental rights (TPR) matters. (Current law only grants the right to counsel to parents involved in involuntary TPR matters. Thus, the SPD currently represents parents in only involuntary TPR matters.) According to the Director of State Courts Office, 1,888 TPR cases were filed in the state in 1998. This number includes both involuntary and voluntary TPRs. The SPD handled approximately 411 involuntary TPRs in FY98. Assuming that the SPD handles most, if not all, of the involuntary TPR cases that are filed in the state (and assuming that these figures represent the average number filed per year), approximately 1,477 voluntary TPR petitions were filed in 1998. This means that, upon enactment of this bill, the SPD would handle some portion of the 1,477 voluntary TPR cases per year. That is, the SPD would represent in only those TPR cases involving an indigent or minor parent. It is not known, however, how many of these voluntary TPR cases would involve an indigent or minor parent. Therefore, the SPD cannot estimate that actual number of voluntary TPR cases it would handle. Moreover, because the SPD does not currently handle voluntary TPR cases, it is difficult to estimate the amount of time an attorney would spend on such a case. Therefore, with the data presently available, the SPD cannot estimate the costs associated with this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Indeterminate at this time. SPD would monitor fiscal effect of this bill for future budget considerations.

Agency/Prepared by: (Name & Phone No.)
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Date
 10/29/99