



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**

**DHFS 1/15/02**

LRB Number <b>01-3583/2</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-596</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Subject</b>		
Court-ordered relative placement permanency plans		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

Current law requires that a permanency plan be prepared for children living in the following types of out-of-home care placements: foster homes, treatment foster homes, group homes, child caring institutions, secure detention facilities and shelter care facilities. A permanency plan is a plan designed to ensure that a child is reunified with his or her family whenever appropriate or that the child quickly attains a placement providing long-term stability. This bill expands the permanency plan requirement to include children who, under a juvenile court order, are living in the home of a relative. In all counties except for Milwaukee County, the county Human Services agency is responsible for ensuring permanency plans are created for children in out-of-home care. For children in Milwaukee County, the responsibility lies with the Department's Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW).

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the Department. BMCW, under its own initiative, already prepares permanency plans for children living in court-ordered relative placements. Some counties (the number is unknown) also currently prepare permanency plans for these children. There are approximately 794 children residing in court-ordered relative placements in non-Milwaukee counties. For counties not currently preparing permanency plans for these children, there may be increased staff costs due to the increased workload of preparing the additional plans. Counties would fund those costs with existing allocations of state and federal funding they receive through the Community Aids program or with local tax levy. The precise fiscal impact for those counties, however, cannot be determined.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**