

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DHFS 02/19/2002

LRB Number	01-4375/2	Introduction Number	AB-809	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Conformity with federal Adoption and Safe Families Act					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill modifies several provisions of the Children's Code and the Juvenile Justice Code relating to children placed in out-of-home care in order to bring those provisions into conformity with the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997 (ASFA) and its supporting regulations. Those provisions relate to: (1) permanency planning; (2) judicial findings of "contrary-to-welfare" and "reasonable efforts"; (3) termination of dispositional orders; (4) time limits for judicial proceedings; (5) filing requirements for termination of parental rights; and (6) debarment of foster parents.

The precise fiscal impact for the Department and county human service agencies cannot be determined, although the bill will likely increase staff costs for the Department and county human services agencies due to the increased workload necessary to meet the federal requirements. Counties would fund the increased costs with existing allocations of state and federal funding they receive through the Community Aids program or with local tax levy. The costs of meeting the federal requirements, however, are much likely less than the amount of federal funding Wisconsin could lose if its laws remain in non-compliance. The Department estimates the potential loss of federal IV-E funding at \$10 million. A federal review of Wisconsin's compliance with Title IV-E mandates is scheduled for March 2002.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications