

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 2/18/2004

LRB Number	03-1702/3	Introduction Number	AB-784	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Jury trials in juvenile court proceedings; elimination of					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, when a child in need of protection or services (CHIPS) petition is filed, a hearing to determine whether anyone contests this allegation is held within thirty days of filing the petition. If the petition is contested, the court must schedule a fact-finding hearing to determine whether there are grounds for the CHIPS petition. The child and the parent, guardian, or legal custodian have the right to request a jury trial for this hearing. This bill eliminates that right and allows only the court to determine whether there are grounds for a CHIPS petition.

This bill will not significantly affect DHFS or county child welfare staff costs or service costs for children in DHFS or county care. Children will remain in the state or county's custody and therefore generate out-of-home care costs for the same period of time under this bill as under current law. Therefore, this bill would not have a fiscal effect on the Department of Health and Family Services or county departments of human or social services.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications