

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 8/15/2005

LRB Number 05-0447/1	Introduction Number SB-271	Estimate Type Original
Subject		
Child abuse; investigations; training		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, reports of suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect are confidential and may only be disclosed under certain exceptions. One of these exceptions permits a report to be disclosed to a person who is suspected of abuse or neglect, except that any information that would identify the reporter may not be disclosed.

This bill requires the person investigating a report of suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect, at the initial contact with an individual who is suspected of the abuse or neglect, to advise that individual of the specific allegations that have been made against him or her. However, any information that would identify the reporter or any other person who has provided information relating to the abuse or neglect cannot be disclosed. This provision will not have a fiscal effect on the Department of Health and Family Services or county departments of human or social services.

Current law requires all staff members or supervisors of county departments of human and social services, the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW), or a licensed child welfare agency under contract to provide child welfare services to a county whose responsibilities include investigation or treatment of child abuse or neglect to complete training in child abuse and neglect protective services and unborn child abuse protective services. This training is to include information on recognizing and responding to domestic abuse. The Department of Health and Family Services is required to make this training available to child welfare agencies each year.

This bill expands this training to also include training in the constitutional and legal rights of a child being observed or interviewed in connection with an investigation of the child's family. This expanded training shall include training in the rights guaranteed under the 4th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution regarding reasonable search and seizure, training in the rights guaranteed under the 14th Amendment of the parent to direct the upbringing of his or her child, and training in the duty of the agency staff member or supervisor to protect these rights from the time of initial contact with the child and family until the investigation or treatment is concluded.

For purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that this training would be added to the Department's current child welfare training program for new child welfare workers. The Department would need to contract for a consultant to develop the curriculum for the additional training requirements at a one-time cost of \$30,000 GPR. The Department would provide training to an estimated 450 new workers per year. This training would need to be conducted by an attorney because of the legal subject matter. It is estimated that there will be an ongoing annual cost of \$27,000 GPR in instruction costs to add this curriculum to the child welfare training program.

The Department would also be required to provide this training to approximately 824 existing child welfare workers outside of the new employee training program. It is estimated that there will be a one-time cost of \$49,500 GPR to provide this training. These costs cannot be absorbed within the Department's current budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2005 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
One-cost of \$79,500 GPR.			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes		\$	
(FTE Position Changes)			
State Operations - Other Costs	27,000		
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$27,000		\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR	27,000		
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, ets.)			
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev	
GPR Taxes	\$		\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
TOTAL State Revenues	\$		\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>	
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$27,000		\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$		\$
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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