



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**  
**DHFS 5/23/2008**

LRB Number <b>07-3917/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-0921</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> amount chargeable for issuing a certified or uncertified copy of a birth certificate to a nonprofit organization.		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

The Wisconsin Vital Records program is a state and local cooperative system composed of the State Vital Records Office in DHFS, 74 local Vital Registrars, and thousands of business partners. This system registers and maintains records of all Wisconsin vital records. Fees for vital records are set in statute. Currently, local and state registrars of deeds charge \$20 for a copy of a birth certificate, whether it is certified or uncertified. Of this, \$7 is allocated to the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board (CANPB). Registrar offices retain \$5 of the remaining \$13 and remit \$8 to the state.

The Legislature authorized the \$20 fee for birth certificates for the period from SFY 07 through SFY 09. After July 1, 2010, this fee is reduced to \$12. The purpose of the higher fee is to allow the state to generate sufficient revenue to permit the purchase of an electronic on-line system for vital records. Recent federal legislation now requires that all states have an on-line birth and death verification system and a single data file source for issuance of birth records in place within the next three years. The new federal law also requires extensive programming changes and new interstate data exchanges to comply with birth-death file match mandates. To satisfy the federal requirement, the State must purchase and implement an electronic on-line system for vital records.

AB 921 requires the Department to charge a nonprofit organization \$12 for a copy of a birth certificate, rather than the \$20 fee currently in statute. AB 921 does not specify which individuals may purchase copies of birth certificates through nonprofit organizations and does not mandate a client service connection between the applicant and the charitable organization.

The fee reduction required in AB 921 will result in a loss of revenue that is being reserved for the State's on-line system. It is not known how many individuals would take advantage of the provisions of this bill by purchasing birth certificates at lower cost through nonprofit organizations. If 5% of the public obtains its birth certificate copies through nonprofits, the Department would lose approximately \$106,600 in revenue annually in FY 09.

There will also be a cost to the state and local registrar offices to implement the provisions in this bill. The state's current mainframe computer system is very old and cannot accommodate a dual fee system. A separate system to verify the status of nonprofit organizations and to determine which requests are from legitimate nonprofits would be required. Revenue from nonprofits would have to be tracked separately and accounted for separately. As a result, a manual process to record, track, and maintain the dual fee provisions would be required until the new federally mandated on-line system is implemented. Current staff cannot absorb this workload and still maintain the same level of customer service for processing and filling vital records requests and the issuance of quarterly revenue/accounting reconciliation reports. It is estimated that 1.0 FTE Program and Planning Analyst, at a cost of \$56,800 annually, and one-time costs of \$4,000, would be required to handle the dual fee process. This position would be funded from fee revenue, which would further reduce any revenue that has accumulated for the on-line system. There would also be an additional cost to the proposed on-line system, to enable it to incorporate a dual fee system. This cost cannot be estimated at this time.

Current systems in local registrar offices are also not equipped to make exclusions. The fiscal effect on local Vital Records offices would depend on their capacity to absorb the workload which this bill will generate. Local office hardware may not be current and would require extensive upgrades to implement a dual payment system. It is likely that most local offices will not be able to absorb this workload and will have to add staff to meet the requirements of this bill. The costs of the additional staff will depend on the size of the local office. Costs would be paid from the fees collected by local registrars for vital record copies. For local registrar offices that have a large number of requests for copies of birth certificates, the costs could be significant.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

## Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2007 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> 07-3917/1		<b>Introduction Number</b> AB-0921	
<b>Description</b> amount chargeable for issuing a certified or uncertified copy of a birth certificate to a nonprofit organization.			
<b>I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):</b>  \$4,000 for office equipment for new position			
<b>II. Annualized Costs:</b>		<b>Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:</b>	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$48,900		\$
(FTE Position Changes)	(1.0 FTE)		
State Operations - Other Costs	7,900		
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>	<b>\$56,800</b>		<b>\$</b>
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>			
GPR			
FED			
PRO/PRS (Vital Records fee)	56,800		
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, ets.)</b>			
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev	
GPR Taxes	\$		\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			-106,600
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>		<b>\$-106,600</b>
<b>NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT</b>			
	State	Local	
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$56,800		\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$-106,600		\$
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>		<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
DHFS/ Ellen Hadidian (608) 266-8155		Andy Forsaith (608) 266-7684	5/23/2008