

Fiscal Estimate - 2007 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 07-2479/1	Introduction Number AB-0572	
Description Notice of intent to remove a child from the home of a relative, review of decisions or orders involving the placement and care of a child placed in the home of a relative, and independent child abuse or neglect investigations when the subject of the investigation is a relative in whose home a child is placed		
Fiscal Effect		
State:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
Local:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
Fund Sources Affected		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations		
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 1/3/2008

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 572 extends the procedural rights currently given to the head of a foster home, treatment foster home, or group home placement to relatives, other than a parent, in whose care the court has placed a child. The primary population affected would be caretakers of court-ordered kinship care placements and court-ordered placements with unlicensed relatives that are at least six months in duration. The Department estimates that the number of annual placements fitting this description is 2100 (1750 kinship care; 350 unlicensed relatives).

The procedural rights extended to these caretakers concern notice of the intent to remove the child from the home and review of decisions or orders involving the placement and care of the child. Notifying caretakers of the intent to remove the child from their care would increase workload for county caseworkers and state caseworkers in the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW). Based on the number of court-ordered kinship care and unlicensed relative placements that end annually, the Department estimates the bill could generate 1820 additional notifications, 970 for counties and 850 for BMCW. The estimated time required to produce a notice is one hour per notice. Applying the average cost of an ongoing case manager in BMCW, \$17.48 per hour, the Department estimates that the associated workload costs could be \$17,000 for counties and \$14,900 for BMCW. These costs could be absorbed by the county agency or, in the case of BMCW, the Department. As BMCW contracts for ongoing case manager services, the costs to the Department would be divided between GPR and federal IV-E foster care funds.

The expansion of the right to review decisions and orders to include kinship care providers and unlicensed relatives could increase the number of appeals in which the Department and county agencies must participate. The caseworker workload associated with preparing for and participating in the appeals process averages seven hours per appeal. However, Department of Administration, Division of Hearings and Appeals' data regarding appeals for foster home placements suggest that the number of additional appeals would be small. In the year between December 2006 and December 2007, two foster home appeals concerned the removal of a child, and none concerned subsequent child placements. The remaining appeals dealt with licensure decisions, rate changes, and payments. The small number of additional hearings as a result of the bill should limit the additional workload costs to a level that can be absorbed by the county agency or, in the case of BMCW, the Department.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications