Fiscal Estimate - 2007 Session

\boxtimes	Original		Updated		Corrected		Supplemental					
LRB	Number	07-3391/3		Intro	duction Num	nber A	B-0809					
Description The consequences for failure to act within a time period specified in the Children's Code or the Juvenile Justice Code, extension of certain time periods specified in the Children's Code, and informal dispositions under the Children's Code												
Fiscal	Effect											
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Agen	cy/Prepared	Ву	A	uthorized	Signature		Date					
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DA 2/21/2008

LRB Number	07-3391/3	Introduction Number	AB-0809	Estimate Type	Original	

Description

The consequences for failure to act within a time period specified in the Children's Code or the Juvenile Justice Code, extension of certain time periods specified in the Children's Code, and informal dispositions under the Children's Code

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

It is uncertain whether enactment of this bill would have a fiscal impact. To begin with, the bill would have an effect only on those DA offices that handle CHIPS cases. The proposed amendments will permit a Child Protective Services (CPS) agency to use this statute effectively as leverage to get cooperation from a family in exchange for handling the matter outside of the court system, potentially saving the CPS agency from filing a CHIPS case. At first, this would appear to help a prosecutor's workload. However, all these informal agreements need to be referred to the DA to be reviewed and approved. If not approved, a CHIPS case must be issued or declined. If the agreement is approved but then violated, a referral to the DA is made. Most CPS agencies in Wisconsin have programs in place now where a family in need is identified and the family is offered help by participating in a program without court involvement, but participation by the family is voluntary. The DA never sees the case. CPS agencies do scores of these a year. However, they now intend to use this statute as a vehicle to get families to cooperate under a threat of court involvement. As a result, DA offices will now be asked to approve many of these "informal agreements." It may increase DA workloads but it is difficult to give a precise figure. It will depend on what the CPS practices are in each county.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

As stated above, it is uncertain whether enactment of this bill would have a long-term fiscal effect. It is recommended that if the bill is enacted that a review of the data be done periodically to determine if there is a fiscal impact on DA offices.