Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original Updated	☐ Cor	rected	Supplemental				
LRB Number 09-2190/3	Introduct	tion Number	AB-0590				
Description Elimination of an exception for spiritual treatment of a child in the law criminalizing physical abuse of a child and in the laws governing the practice of medicine or surgery, the investigation of child abuse or neglect, the administration of psychotropic medication to juveniles in correctional custody, the election of Christian Science treatment in lieu of medical or surgical treatment, and providing a penalty							
Fiscal Effect							
Appropriations R Decrease Existing D Appropriations R Create New Appropriations	ocrease Existing evenues ecrease Existing evenues		ts - May be possible nin agency's budget \to No sts				
Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. ☐ Increase Costs ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory 2. ☐ Decrease Costs ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory ☐ Decrease Costs ☐ Permissive ☐ Mandatory ☐ Counties ☐ Others ☐ Counties ☐ Others ☐ School ☐ WTCS ☐ Districts ☐ Districts							
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations							
GPR FED PRO PRS [SEG SEGS						
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Sign	ature	Date				
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DCF 1/29/2010

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Elimination of an exception for spiritual treatment of a child in the law criminalizing physical abuse of a child and in the laws governing the practice of medicine or surgery, the investigation of child abuse or neglect, the administration of psychotropic medication to juveniles in correctional custody, the election of Christian Science treatment in lieu of medical or surgical treatment, and providing a penalty

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, DCF or a county child welfare agency that receives a report of suspected or threatened child abuse or neglect must investigate whether abuse or neglect has occurred or is likely to occur and whether the child or a member of the child's family is in need of services. A determination that abuse or neglect has occurred cannot be based solely on the fact that the caregiver relied on religious means to treat a disease. This bill eliminates that exception and instead provides an exception to the requirement that the county department determine whether the child, a member of the child's family, or the child's guardian or legal custodian is in need of services.

DCF does not anticipate that changing the religious exceptions will have a significant effect on the operation of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare or county child welfare agencies. Thus, this bill does not anticipated to have a significant fiscal effect.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications