

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 9/29/2009

LRB Number	09-2744/2	Introduction Number	SB-299	Estimate Type	Original
Description Public disclosure of certain information when child abuse or neglect results in death or serious injury or involves aggravated circumstances or when a child in an out-of-home placement commits suicide or is sexually abused by a caregiver					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Current law permits public disclosure of certain information when egregious abuse or neglect results in a child death or a serious injury to the child. This bill requires the Department of Children and Families to disclose certain information in the event of a child death or incident of egregious abuse and neglect, with some exceptions. By requiring additional staff time this bill increases costs to the Department of Children and Families.

This bill requires an agency that has reason to suspect that an incident of death, serious injury, or egregious abuse or neglect has occurred to provide DCF certain information within two days. While much of the information required to be submitted is currently permitted to be disclosed, the disclosure mandate and two-day time frame may require additional effort at the local level. The local fiscal effect cannot be determined.

This bill also requires the Department to disclose to the public certain information that is received from that agency within two days. The Department then has 90 days to prepare a summary report. The summary report includes basic, but not identifying information about the victim and the nature of the incident. If policy recommendations are deemed necessary to address similar incidents in the future, the Department has up to six months to produce those recommendations.

To produce a full summary report, the Department would need to review additional cases than it does currently. The Department received 102 incident notifications in 2008, of which 54 were incidents of confirmed child deaths, serious injury, or egregious abuse and neglect. Of the 54, 8 cases received a full on-site review. While a full on-site case review may not be necessary to complete a summary report to the public, staff time would be required to make contact with child welfare agencies and compile information to be disclosed to the public. Compiling these reports will increase staff time. This bill provides members of the public the ability to petition courts to require DCF to disclose information. Staff time may be required to attend these hearings, but it is not known how much time would be needed in order to attend these hearings. To fulfill the additional work requirements, DCF estimates that it would need an additional 1 FTE. The annualized cost of providing for this position is \$61,700 GPR.

Additionally, the Department would be required to report on all injuries stemming from incidents of abuse, including but not limited to disease and pregnancy. The Department does not keep information detailing all injuries stemming from abuse and neglect. To capture this information, the Department may need to make enhancements to the Child Welfare Information System, the cost of which the Department could likely absorb.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Human Services Program Coordinator minimum OSER Classification	\$ 16.90
Yearly Salary Cost	\$ 35,152.00
Yearly Fringe Cost	\$ 16,521.44
Yearly Supplies and Services	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>
Subtotal Cost	\$ 61,700.00

FTE Assumptions

40 hours/abbreviated review	x 45 reviews	1800 hours
2 hours/ analyzing cases	x 100 cases	200 hours
20 hours/ quarterly report	x 4 reports	<u>80 hours</u>
		2080 hours

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2009 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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Description Public disclosure of certain information when child abuse or neglect results in death or serious injury or involves aggravated circumstances or when a child in an out-of-home placement commits suicide or is sexually abused by a caregiver			
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
	State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$61,700	\$
	(FTE Position Changes)	(1.0 FTE)	
	State Operations - Other Costs		
	Local Assistance		
	Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
	TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$61,700	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
	GPR	61,700	
	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, etc.)			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
	GPR Taxes	\$	\$
	GPR Earned		
	FED		
	PRO/PRS		
	SEG/SEG-S		
	TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
		State	Local
NET CHANGE IN COSTS		\$61,700	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE		\$	\$
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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