

### Fiscal Estimate - 2015 Session

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>15-1030/1</b>	<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>AB-0042</b>
<b>Description</b> Including a statement as to whether a child has been adopted in a petition for a proceeding under the Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code, in a petition for guardianship of a minor, in an informal disposition under the Children's Code or the Juvenile Justice Code, or in a voluntary out-of-home care agreement under the Children's Code, and requiring an annual report to the governor and the legislature on children who enter out-of-home care after they have been adopted or placed under a guardianship	
<b>Fiscal Effect</b>  <b>State:</b> <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	
<b>Local:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue      5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
<b>Fund Sources Affected</b> <b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b> <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b> DCF/ Jason Barrett (608) 261-8789	<b>Authorized Signature</b> Kim Swissdorf (608) 261-0616
<b>Date</b> 4/6/2015	

## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 4/6/2015

LRB Number	15-1030/1	Introduction Number	AB-0042	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Including a statement as to whether a child has been adopted in a petition for a proceeding under the Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code, in a petition for guardianship of a minor, in an informal disposition under the Children's Code or the Juvenile Justice Code, or in a voluntary out-of-home care agreement under the Children's Code, and requiring an annual report to the governor and the legislature on children who enter out-of-home care after they have been adopted or placed under a guardianship					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, information regarding a child who enters the child welfare system is recorded into the Wisconsin Statewide Automated Child Welfare Information System (eWISACWIS). The system maintains information on all aspects of a child welfare case, including intake, assessment, case management, and court proceedings. Currently, child welfare caseworkers are not required to enter data in eWISACWIS on whether a child in the child welfare system is adopted. Therefore, the Department does not have accurate data on the number of adopted children who enter the child welfare system. The recently-enacted federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014, will require states to report to the federal government on the number of adopted children who enter the child welfare system.

This bill requires certain petitions and agreements related to the welfare of a child to state whether the child has previously been adopted. This information is required in all cases in which the adoption status is known or can be ascertained, and is required whether the adoption occurred in the United States or another country. The status information then becomes a part of the child's case record, to track when a child who has previously been adopted is subject to proceedings under the child welfare system or juvenile justice system, or when an adoption is dissolved by a termination of parental rights. Recording of a child's adoption status is not required for a child or juvenile who is held in custody for less than 48 hours and who is released to the parent, guardian, or legal custodian without a hearing.

This bill also requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to submit an annual report to the Governor and the Legislature, beginning on December 31, 2017, regarding the number of children who have previously been adopted or given a guardian who enter out-of-home care in the child welfare or juvenile justice system during the preceding calendar year.

The bill will moderately increase workload to caseworkers across the state and will have an increased reporting requirement for DCF. The bill requires child welfare staff to undertake two types of documentation: (a) entering the information into eWISACWIS and (b) placing the information in petitions and agreements.

The bill's reporting requirement includes children/youth who are in out-of-home placements who are not under the responsibility of DCF and not included in the eWISACWIS data system; specifically, youth in the Milwaukee County Juvenile Justice system and Department of Corrections (DOC) correctional institutions. DCF will need to establish an administrative coordination mechanism with Milwaukee County and DOC to get information from these entities to include in the annual report to the legislature.

As noted above, there is an increased workload on child welfare caseworkers related to the bill's requirements related to court documentation. It is assumed that this additional workload could be absorbed by existing staffing levels.

There is an effect associated with the reporting requirement to the state legislature: DCF will need to modify an indicator in eWISACWIS to make it required and create a report. The eWISACWIS system will need to be modified to require and accommodate adoption information. Program staff indicated that required eWISACWIS modifications would account for about one-third the cost of a typical eWISACWIS release. As a result, it is estimated that there will be a one-time cost of \$300,000 for the software modification required under this bill. Given that this change is also required by federal legislation, the one-time cost of the software modification required under this bill will be absorbed through the reallocation of existing resources.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

## Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2015 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>15-1030/1</b>	<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>AB-0042</b>
------------------------------------	---

**Description**  
 Including a statement as to whether a child has been adopted in a petition for a proceeding under the Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code, in a petition for guardianship of a minor, in an informal disposition under the Children's Code or the Juvenile Justice Code, or in a voluntary out-of-home care agreement under the Children's Code, and requiring an annual report to the governor and the legislature on children who enter out-of-home care after they have been adopted or placed under a guardianship

**I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):**

There is an effect associated with the reporting requirement to the state legislature: DCF will need to modify an indicator in eWISACWIS to make it required and create a report. The eWisacwis system would need to be modified to require and accommodate adoption information. Program staff indicated that required eWisacwis modifications would account for about one-third the cost of a typical eWisacwis release. The cost of a typical eWisacwis release is approximately \$900,000. Therefore, the software modification required under this bill would result in a one-time cost of \$300,000.

<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	\$	\$
(FTE Position Changes)		
State Operations - Other Costs	300,000	
Local Assistance		
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>		
GPR	300,000	
FED		
PRO/PRS		
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, etc.)</b>		
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$	\$
GPR Earned		
FED		
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S		
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

<b>NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT</b>		
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$300,000	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$	\$

<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>	<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
DCF/ Jason Barrett (608) 261-8789	Kim Swissdorf (608) 261-0616	4/6/2015