

Fiscal Estimate - 2015 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 15-2947/1	Introduction Number SB-309	
Description Use of the reasonable and prudent parent standard for making decisions concerning the participation of a child placed in out-of-home care in age or developmentally appropriate activities, permanency planning for a child 14 years of age or over, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority		
Fiscal Effect State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input 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 Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 10/28/2015

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill incorporates the changes that the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act requires in regards to (1) the use of the reasonable and prudent parent standard for making decisions concerning the participation of a child in out-of-home care in age or developmentally appropriate activities; and (2) incorporating certain requirements in permanency planning for youth age 14 and older.

The bill defines “reasonable and prudent parent standard” as a standard for an out-of-home care provider to use in making decisions concerning a child’s participation in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural, and social activities that is characterized by careful and sensible parental decisions that maintain the health, safety, best interests, and cultural, religious, and tribal values of the child while at the same time encouraging the emotional and developmental growth of the child.

Under the bill, this standard is incorporated into the child welfare system through a variety of ways, such as providing information about the standard and activities to out-of-home care providers, requiring training as promulgated through DCF rules, and using this standard in permanency planning and court determinations.

The bill also incorporates the changes in the federal Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act regarding permanency planning. Changes include allowing a permanency goal of placement in a permanent living arrangement only for youth age 16 or older and requiring a transition from out-of-home care plan for youth age 14 or older.

This bill may create minimal costs to the Department to develop training for child welfare workers, and foster parents and other out-of-home care providers, on the use of the reasonable and prudent parent standard in making decisions concerning a child’s participation in age or developmentally appropriate extracurricular, enrichment, cultural and social activities.

Initial training will be completed through online training; however, local agencies may choose to host training to specific groups of out-of-home care providers. To the extent counties host such trainings, they may incur some administrative costs.

Child welfare agencies currently perform the changes associated with the permanency planning. Therefore, there should be minimal to no costs associated with implementing this part of the bill. Child welfare agencies currently initiate transition from out-of-home care planning for youth at age 15. Lowering the age for initiating transition planning to 14 as specified in the bill will have minimal workload and fiscal impact.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications