

Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 17-4767/1	Introduction Number AB-0783
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Description
 a committee to study and make recommendations on the caseloads of child welfare workers

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues
- Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes
 - No
- Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
- Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs
 - 2. Decrease Costs
- 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
- 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
- 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
 - Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others 0
 - School Districts 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	

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 12/29/2017

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Description a committee to study and make recommendations on the caseloads of child welfare workers					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires DCF to create a committee named "Wisconsin Task Force to Create Effective Child Welfare Caseloads" which must consist of 16 members. Of the 16 members, 10 must be from the Wisconsin County Human Service Association (2 from each WCHSA region), 5 representatives from DCF (including two from the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services), and one representative from a federally recognized Indian tribe in this state appointed by the DCF secretary.

The bill requires the committee to submit a written report to the governor, the Joint Finance Committee, and the appropriate legislative standing committees no later than April 1, 2019. The report must include recommended standards for:

- the maximum average caseloads for child welfare workers performing access, initial assessment, ongoing services, or foster parent support, over which it is not reasonable to expect a worker to be effective, and
- the maximum ratio of supervisors to frontline workers over which it is not reasonable to expect a supervisor to provide effective guidance and direction.

The bill requires the committee to review existing caseload standards in other states as well as relevant research on caseloads. The committee should consider how standards could affect the ability to retain quality staff and mitigate secondary trauma of staff, while also ensuring that county child welfare systems can fulfill their purpose of keeping children safe and attaining permanency. The report should include an outline of how the recommended standards could be implemented, including the funding needed for implementation.

DCF would be able to absorb the staffing of the committee and report writing workload using current resources.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications