

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 1/8/2018

LRB Number	17-4967/1	Introduction Number	AB-0797	Estimate Type	Original
Description a Department of Children and Families pilot project to expand four-year-old kindergarten programs and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposed bill creates a pilot project under which the Department of Children and Families (DCF) could award grants to organizations, including school boards, to expand 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) programs that operated during the 2016-17 school year. Proposals from organizations in no more than three counties could be considered, and preference would be given to an organization operating a program in an economically disadvantaged school district, defined as a school district containing a municipality with a high annual unemployment rate measured as of December 2016 and every two years thereafter. Organizations could only receive grants if each 4K instructor in the program holds a license from the Department of Public Instruction for the appropriate pupil development level.

Under the bill, grants could be funded from a new GPR appropriation or DCF's federal block grant aids appropriation under s. 20.437(2)(md). No new GPR funding is provided under the bill, but the department may submit a request to the Joint Committee on Finance under s. 13.10 to transfer funds from another GPR appropriation to fund grants under the pilot project. Each grant proposed by DCF must be submitted for 14-day passive review approval by the Joint Committee on Finance before the grant can be issued.

The fiscal effect of the bill is indeterminate. Any use of federal funds would be contingent on alignment with eligible uses of funds under federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) rules. At this time, the department does not anticipate that federal funds under appropriation (2)(md) could be used to fund grants under the bill due to the generally-available nature of the services that grants would provide and restrictions on the use of these federal funds for certain generally-available services.

The bill allows DCF to request transferring unspent GPR from an existing appropriation to the new grants appropriation created under the bill. The amount of GPR available for pre-kindergarten grants is indeterminate, as it is dependent on underspending in other DCF appropriations.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications