

### Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>17-5034/1</b>	<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>SB-656</b>
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**Description**  
 a committee to study and make recommendations on the caseloads of child welfare workers

**Fiscal Effect**

**State:**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect<br><input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate<br><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations<br><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations<br><input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues<br><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No<br><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs |
|---|--|---|

**Local:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs<br><input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate<br>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory<br>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory<br>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue<br><input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected<br><input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities<br><input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others<br><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>	<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
DCF/ Kim Swissdorf (608) 422-6351	Kim Swissdorf (608) 422-6351	12/29/2017

## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 12/29/2017

LRB Number	17-5034/1	Introduction Number	SB-656	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> 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