Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

	Original		Updated	□ C	orrected	Suppleme	ental					
LRB	Number	19-0241/2		Introd	uction Number	AB-0047						
Description guardianships of children												
Fiscal	Effect											
State:	No State Fisc Indeterminate Increase E Appropriat Decrease Appropriat	e Existing tions Existing	Increase Exist Revenues Decrease Exist Revenues	sting	Increase Costs - Ma agency's budget Yes Decrease Costs	ay be possible to abs	orb within					
	No Local Gov Indeterminate 1. Increase Permiss 2. Decrease Permiss	e Costs sive Mandatory se Costs sive Mandatory	4. Decrease Re	Mandatory venue	Types of Local Gove Towns Counties School Districts	ernment Units Affecte Village Others WTCS District	Cities					
	Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations											
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Agen	cy/Prepared l	Ву	,	Authorized Sig	jnature		Date					
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DHS 3/19/2019

LRB Number 19-0241/2	Introduction Number	AB-0047	Estimate Type	Original							
Description											
guardianships of children											

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill creates new standards and processes for appointment of a guardian of a minor's person. The bill creates a new statute to govern child guardianships under Chapter 48, and shifts the jurisdiction for guardianship determinations from probate courts to child courts. The bill creates four types of guardianships and defines their standards and duties. The bill allows anyone, including a child over the age of 12, to petition for the appointment of a guardian, sets the standards and processes for the hearing, and defines the processes and situations required to end guardianships.

Oversight of guardian performance has been, and remains, the responsibility of the courts, under this bill. Because of this, the bill is not expected to significantly impact the Department's services. If the bill results in more guardians being appointed for children, the Department's Client Rights Office may receive more questions about mental health services for those children, but should be able to absorb the increase within existing staff and resources.

Under the provisions of the bill, local agencies that provide public benefits to a child become "interested parties" in a guardianship hearing. Under the bill, interested parties are able to petition for a guardianship on behalf of the child, be a party to a guardianship hearing, and/or participate in a guardian ad litem investigation. The bill is not expected to substantially increase county agency workloads because they already are able to provide this assistance to minors.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications