

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 2/12/2021

LRB Number	21-1282/1	Introduction Number	AB-0041	Estimate Type	Original
Description opioid and methamphetamine data system and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill gives DOA responsibility for contracting for the creation and maintenance of a database to track opioid and methamphetamine-related data. The bill creates chapter 153 on Opioid and Methamphetamine Data with a list of specific data elements that shall be in the database.

The bill does not assign specific tasks to specific agencies, however this analysis assumes the DCF will be responsible for supplying data for s153.87(1)(q):

(q) "The number of minors who enter the child protective services system due to opioid use by a parent or guardian, length of time those minors are in out-of-home care, and the type of reporter who notified child protective services of the needs of the minor."

DCF's eWiSACWIS system does not currently generate this parent's drug-specific data. While parental drug use is an option for removal reason, it is not drug-specific, differentiating only between alcohol and other drugs.

To generate these data, eWiSACWIS would need new detail fields to capture the specific drug information as well as making the field required. In addition, new reports would need to be designed to generate data on length of care and reporter type. Depending on the system that DOA uses, DCF may need to create a data interface to send data from eWiSACWIS to the new system.

Modifying eWiSACWIS, creating new reports, and interfacing with an external system would cost approximately \$300,000 - 500,000. eWiSACWIS does not have the capability to store drug-use data at the level of detail specified in this bill and would require additional upgrades. Furthermore, ensuring ongoing support for eWiSACWIS development (and other mandated changes) by new state legislation would require maintaining a similar staffing level, estimated at \$300,000-\$500,000 per state fiscal year. Having capacity to take up mandated changes will reduce (or eliminate) the one-time cost of future changes, as the need for additional capacity to make those changes is reduced (or eliminated).

The bill also creates s153.87(1)(o) and s153.87(1)(p):

(o) "The number of minors in the state who use opioids, the extent to which those minors use opioids, and the type of opioids used."

(p) "The number of minors in the state who use methamphetamines, the extent to which those minors use methamphetamines, and the forms of methamphetamines uses."

DCF does not currently collect information at this level of detail. Caseworkers may add this information in written notes, however it is not readily-usable or reliable data. Even if eWiSACWIS modifications allowed for the collection of drug-specific data for minors, it would only be for minors that touch the child welfare system, rather than comprehensive state-wide data.

In addition, training for child welfare workers throughout the state may be necessary to ensure accurate implementation of any new data collection requirements; with one-time costs of \$50,000 to \$150,000 for training modifications, depending on the depth and modality needed. New data collection activities impose an additional workload on child welfare staff, however those activities can be absorbed by current budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications