

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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|------------------------------------|---|
| LRB Number 21-3158/1 | Introduction Number AB-0631 |
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Description
 Various changes to the safe haven law

Fiscal Effect

State:

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

Local:

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs | | 5.Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Others <u>Org. taking custody of newborn</u> <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate | 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue | |
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs | <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory | |

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 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 | |

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| Agency/Prepared By | Authorized Signature | Date |
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 10/27/2021

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|---|-----------|---------------------|---------|---------------|----------|
| LRB Number | 21-3158/1 | Introduction Number | AB-0631 | Estimate Type | Original |
| Description Various changes to the safe haven law | | | | | |

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would extend the timeframe whereby a parent can relinquish custody of their newborn child from 3 days to 30 days. This change may increase the number of Safe Haven cases that local child welfare agencies receive. Since 2015, Wisconsin has documented 114 "safe haven" cases. The overall impact on the workload for local child welfare agencies as a result of the changes under this bill is not known; thus, the fiscal effect is indeterminate.

This legislation modifies existing requirements and practices for child welfare. As such, the department anticipates one-time costs to provide training to local child welfare agencies. The department can absorb the cost of providing such training within current budget. Local child welfare agencies would incur costs for case worker and supervisor time to take the training, and those costs are indeterminate.

This legislation also modifies requirements for those who are statutorily able to take custody of a relinquished newborn. DCF is unable to estimate the costs related to training these individuals for the modifications under this bill, as they are not directly involved with the child welfare system under DCF. However, this bill also adds specific requirements for DCF, including the creation of a brochure and a video containing statutorily required information and to be created in collaboration with the tribes. DCF assumes these materials would be made available to those who are statutorily able to take custody of a relinquished newborn in physical and/or digital form.

Section 23 of this bill would also require a court to transfer custody and legal guardianship of a relinquished child to the Department, or county agencies if the court finds the relinquished child should be in continued custody. DCF and counties receiving transfer of custody and guardianship may face increased costs under this provision. However, since it is not presently known how many parents will relinquish custody of their newborn child during the additional time period provided by this bill, the Department is unable to estimate such costs and the state and local fiscal effect is indeterminate.

In summary, the Department anticipates some state costs related to the development and implementation of training to county and tribal child welfare agencies, and the creation and distribution of brochures and a video in collaboration with tribes. These costs are indeterminate and can be absorbed within current budget. Local child welfare agencies and those who are statutorily able to take custody of a relinquished newborn face increased training costs for the changes in responsibilities under this bill; such costs are indeterminate. The Department also anticipates increased costs for DCF and county child welfare agencies expenses related to the custody and guardianship of a relinquished child; such costs are indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications