

### Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>21-5737/1</b>	<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>AB-0925</b>	
<b>Description</b> expanding the Court-Appointed Special Advocate program		
<b>Fiscal Effect</b>		
<b>State:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
<b>Local:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs      3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs      4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 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>Tribes</u> <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> DCF/ Sam Matteson (608) 422-6345	<b>Authorized Signature</b> Adam Hartung (608) 422-6346	<b>Date</b> 2/2/2022

**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**

**DCF 2/2/2022**

LRB Number <b>21-5737/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-0925</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> expanding the Court-Appointed Special Advocate program		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

This bill requires the governor to allocate under s. 16.54 a total of \$6.8 million of funding made available under section 602 of the federal Social Security Act as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to the Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocate Association to expand the existing Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, and to create two new CASA county programs in 2022 and two new CASA county programs in 2023.

Current funding is provided to the Wisconsin CASA Association by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and distributed from the appropriation under s. 20.455(5)(es) as authorized in s. 165.967. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) does not currently have a contractual or financial relationship with the Wisconsin CASA Association or local CASA programs. This estimate assumes the funding provided under this bill will be appropriated via its current funding authority and that there would therefore be no change in funding for DCF.

The Wisconsin CASA Association supports local CASA programs that enlist volunteers as a liaison between the legal and child welfare system to advocate for the needs of children who are the subject of CHIPS (children in need of protection or services) proceedings. The expansion of CASA programs to additional counties throughout the state as provided under this bill may impact the child welfare experience of children served by CASA program volunteers.

However, the department is unable to estimate the extent to which the funding under this bill may affect state, county, or tribal costs for out-of-home care. Therefore, the state and local fiscal effect is indeterminate.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**