

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 21-0118/1	Introduction Number SB-414
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Description
 the appointment of a guardian ad litem in a proceeding to grant reasonable visitation rights to a nonparent

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues
- Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes No
- Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
- Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
- 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
 - Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Agency/Prepared By

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Date

6/23/2021

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 6/23/2021

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Description the appointment of a guardian ad litem in a proceeding to grant reasonable visitation rights to a nonparent					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the appointment of a Guardian ad Litem (GAL) when a petition for reasonable visitation rights has been filed by a nonparent (e.g., grandparent, great-grandparent, stepparent, or person who has maintained a relationship similar to a parent-child relationship with the child) under Wis. Stat. 767.43.

Fiscal Effect – Costs/Savings: The Director of State Courts has determined that the implementation of this bill would incur an indeterminate increased cost to Counties. No cost to the State.

Counties will likely have to pay more in GAL fees if the court is required to appoint a GAL in these cases. However, it is unclear what the fiscal impact will be on counties given the lack of information available regarding how many of these cases counties are already appointing GALs, and given the different payment structures counties use for GALs based on local practice. Additionally, some counties already struggle with finding good, qualified GALs to take appointments, so this may create additional challenges in those counties.

Under s. 758.19 (5), Wis. Stats., the Director of State Courts makes payments to counties for circuit court costs, but these payments are limited to the funding provided in 20.625 (1)(cg) Circuit Court Cost appropriation. Without an increase to Circuit Court Cost appropriation, the cost of the increased GAL appointments will be borne by the counties.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The long-range fiscal implication of this bill is indeterminate.