



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 8/21/2023

LRB Number	23-2235/1	Introduction Number	AB-0383	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> preadoption training formats					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a prospective adoptive parent who has not previously adopted a child must complete at least 25 hours of preadoption preparation requirements— including six hours of training that is provided in person (either individually or in a group) and at least six hours of training that is appropriate to the specific needs of the child to be adopted—before the proposed adoptive parent may have a child placed with them for adoption or bring a child into this state for adoption. Under some circumstances, a child may be placed in a home of a proposed adoptive parent prior to completion of these training requirements if that home has already been licensed as a foster home and an evaluation has been conducted to determine if the home is suitable for the child.

Current law requires DCF and adoption agencies to conduct in-person training with families for at least six hours of their training. DCF contracts with the Wisconsin Child Welfare Professional Development System (WCWPDS) to provide trainings to pre-adoptive parents. Under this bill, pre-adoptive parents will still receive the same interactive training that is face-to-face via a virtual platform as they would in-person. This change will reduce the time it takes for children and families to reach adoption finalization.

Modifying this statute to allow for in-person “or through live videoconference session” will allow flexibility for DCF and adoption agencies to provide pre-adoptive preparation training requirements through interactive training platforms. The overall workload impact for DCF or adoption agencies is negligible, however this will create efficiencies for families and trainers.

The state fiscal effects of this bill may lead to a temporary reduction in state-paid training costs incurred by WCWPDS due to the absence of classroom style training costs – such as room rentals at hotels/conference centers, physical training supplies, printing, travel, etc. – however the exact amounts of moving to a virtual face-to-face setting is unknown and indeterminate. This change would not necessitate a contract change with WCWPDS. Furthermore, any long-term cost impacts are negligible, as both virtual and in-person trainings may be offered.

There are no local government fiscal effects. The pre-adoption trainings are paid through DCF’s contract with WCWPDS.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications