

Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 23-2134/1	Introduction Number AB-0083	
Description providing permanency plan and comments to out-of-home care providers in advance of a permanency plan review or hearing		
Fiscal Effect State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Tribes <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
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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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 3/27/2023

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Description providing permanency plan and comments to out-of-home care providers in advance of a permanency plan review or hearing					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill allows an agency to provide a copy of child's permanency plan and any comments on the plan to a child's out-of-home care provider within the context of a permanency review and a permanency hearing. The bill also mandates that any information that is required to remain confidential under federal or state law must be redacted from the permanency plan before it is provided to the out-of-home care provider.

Under this bill, there would be additional and increased costs to local agencies associated with the training and increased time spent for child welfare workers and legal counsel to make the required manual redactions needed for each permanency plan that would be shared with the child's out-of-home care provider. The extent of these increased costs is indeterminate. Without a statewide IT solution provided by the Department through eWiSACWIS, Wisconsin's statewide automated child welfare information system (estimated below), these costs would increase.

The Department provides the following estimates for two changes to eWiSACWIS that would assist agencies to comply with the confidentiality components of this bill. First, eWiSACWIS would require an update to allow county child welfare workers to electronically redact confidential permanency plan information. DCF estimates the one-time cost to develop this IT system change is approximately between \$250,000 and \$500,000. Secondly, the Department estimates that it could develop the capacity for eWiSACWIS to automatically generate a version of the permanency plan for the out-of-home care provider that would remove certain specific sections that may contain confidential information. However, it is important to note that additional review and redaction of confidential information in the remaining sections of the permanency plan by local agencies would still be necessary. The one-time costs associated with this development is approximately between \$300,000 and \$400,000.

The Department further estimates that multiple child welfare trainings would need to be edited and updated to accommodate the changes required under this bill and would incur a one-time contractual cost of approximately \$30,000.

In summary, the changes under this bill will increase costs for local agency staff for the time associated with training and making the redactions to the permanency plan. Some of these costs may be mitigated through two IT solutions provided by the Department via eWiSACWIS as estimated above. The Department will also incur additional costs associated with updating child welfare trainings. As some of these costs are unknown and interdependent, the overall fiscal estimate is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications