



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #204

Brighter Futures (DCF -- Children and Families)

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 94, #8, and Page 238, #3]

CURRENT LAW

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) administers the brighter futures program. The brighter futures program seeks to: (a) prevent and reduce the incidence of youth violence and other delinquent behavior; (b) prevent and reduce the incidence of youth alcohol and other drug use and abuse; (c) prevent and reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect; (d) prevent and reduce the incidence of non-marital pregnancy and increase the use of abstinence to prevent non-marital pregnancy; and (e) increase adolescent self-sufficiency by encouraging high school graduation, vocational preparedness, improved social and other interpersonal skills, and responsible decision-making. Base funding for the brighter futures program is \$1,729,900 GPR and \$2,284,600 FED. Federal funds are from the substance abuse prevention and treatment block grant (SAPTBG) and the temporary assistance for needy families (TANF) block grant.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) currently counts 50% of total GPR funding budgeted for the brighter futures program (\$865,000) in meeting the matching requirements for the SAPTBG. The remaining brighter futures GPR funding is counted by DCF for its maintenance-of-effort requirements for the TANF block grant.

Under federal requirements, funds used to satisfy the matching requirements under the SAPTBG must be budgeted directly in the agency that administers the block grant. Currently, DCF and DHS have an arrangement under which 50% of the funding for the brighter futures program is transferred to DHS and then transferred directly back to DCF in order to meet the federal requirements under the SAPTBG.

GOVERNOR

Reduce funding by \$864,900 (-\$1,729,900 GPR and \$865,000 PR) annually in DCF for the brighter futures program and create a program revenue appropriation, the interagency aids,

brighter futures initiative appropriation, in DCF's children and family services program. In addition, provide \$865,000 GPR to DHS for grants for community programs and require DHS to transfer not more than \$865,000 of this funding to DCF for the brighter futures program.

This provision is an effort to comply with the federal requirements of the SAPTBG to budget matching funds for this block grant directly in DHS, since DHS is the agency that administers the SAPTBG.

MODIFICATION

Modify the bill as follows: (a) provide \$864,900 GPR annually to DCF for the brighter futures program; (b) create an annual GPR appropriation in DHS specifically for the GPR budgeted directly in DHS (\$865,000 GPR annually) to be transferred to DCF for the brighter futures program; (c) eliminate the changes to the DHS grants for community programs appropriation that would authorize the transfer of GPR funds to DCF for the brighter futures program; (d) modify section 46.48(31) of the Wisconsin statutes, which is created under the bill, to specify that the appropriation from which to transfer GPR brighter futures funding would be the annual GPR appropriation created under (b), rather than the community programs appropriation; and (e) modify section 46.48(31) to specify that DHS must transfer the amounts in the schedule under the annual GPR appropriation created under (b), rather than "not more than \$865,000."

Explanation: These modifications would address two issues. First, the bill would eliminate GPR funding for the brighter futures program from DCF. However, the administration indicates that the intent was only to reduce the GPR funding by the amount that would be budgeted directly in DHS. Therefore, the first modification would restore the remaining amount of GPR (\$864,900 GPR annually) in DCF.

Second, the intent of the bill was to transfer all of the GPR budgeted in DHS for the brighter futures program to DCF. The remaining modifications outlined above would establish a separate annual GPR appropriation for these funds and require DHS to transfer the entire amount in this appropriation to DCF for the brighter futures program. These modifications would address the following concerns: (a) under the bill, DHS would have the authority to transfer less GPR than what is budgeted in DHS to DCF for brighter futures; and (b) if GPR funding for brighter futures budgeted in DHS were reduced in the future, DHS would not be required to transfer more funding to DCF than the amount budgeted for that purpose.

Change to Bill Funding	
GPR	\$1,729,800

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