Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

	Original		Updated		Corrected		Supplemental			
LRB	Number	05-3144/2		Intro	duction Nur	nber A	B-702			
Subject Sexual assault of a child by a person responsible for children's programs										
Fiscal	Effect									
State: No State Fiscal Effect Indeterminate Increase Existing Appropriations Appropriations Appropriations Appropriations Appropriations Appropriations Appropriations Appropriations Create New Appropriations Create New Appropriations Increase Existing Appropriations Decrease Existing Appropriations Decrease Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget To absorb within agency's budget Decrease Costs No Local Government Costs Indeterminate Appropriations State: Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget Decrease Costs No Decrease Costs Increase Revenue Permissive Mandatory State: Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget To absorb within agency wit										
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations										
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 11/8/2005

LRB Number 05-3144/2	Introduction Number	AB-702	Estimate Type	Updated					
Subject									
Sexual assault of a child by a person responsible for children's programs									

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation in criminal cases and other specified proceedings in which the loss of personal liberty or parental rights may occur. For adult clients, the SPD must complete a financial eligibility evaluation before appointing an attorney. SPD services are constitutionally required because in the case types handled by SPD, a defendant without the financial means to hire an attorney has the right to have an attorney appointed. Therefore, any bill that would increase the number of cases handled by SPD would increase SPD costs.

Although this bill does not create an entirely new criminal offense for which SPD will be required to appoint attorneys, it does create a new category of sexual assault offenses and increase the penalties. Thus, SPD is likely to see increased costs from an increased number of cases and from additional attorney time related to the bill's requirement of mandatory imprisonment. There are also likely to be more contested hearings when charges are brought under the newly defined offense. Hearings, including trials, may focus on whether the alleged sexual contact occurred in connection with the defendant's role with the children's program or in an unrelated social context.

Counties are likely to incur additional costs for appointment of attorneys under State v. Dean for defendants who do not meet SPD's strict financial criteria. Incarceration costs will also increase for defendants held in jail (both pending court hearings and serving sentences).

We are not aware of any existing data to predict the number of new cases or the additional attorney time resulting from this bill, but we could track these numbers in the future.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications