Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

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LRB	Number	11-2720/1		Introd	duction Numb	oer A	B-0240
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives CTS 2/23/2012

LRB Number	11-2720/1	Introduction Number	AB-0240	Estimate Type	Original				
Description									
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disclosure of electronic juvenile court records to law enforcement agencies and providing a penalty									

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would allow the juvenile courts to transfer information contained in the electronic records of the court to law enforcement agencies, regardless of whether the law enforcement agency is a party in the proceedings. The Director of State Courts is authorized under the bill to use the circuit court automated information systems established under s. 759.19(4) to facilitate the transfer. A law enforcement agency or an individual allowed access to these confidential records would be required to keep the information confidential; violation of this confidentiality requirement is punishable by a forfeiture of up to \$5,000.

It is impossible to determine an exact fiscal impact of this bill, although implementing any transfer of information of electronic records will require additional resources for the court system. In order to determine the fiscal impact, we would need the answers to the following questions:

- --What information will be transferred? How frequently would information be transferred?
- --To whom would the information be transferred? The bill says it would be a "law enforcement agency." There are hundreds of law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin, and it is unclear whether this bill would require a single agreement or multiple agreements with individual law enforcement agencies.
- --What mechanism would be used to insure that only authorized law enforcement officials would have access to these confidential records? A typical mechanism for controlling access to confidential records is a user ID and password system. Creating such a system would be a significant undertaking for the courts and would entail significant ongoing expenses to maintain the system.

We are providing the following estimates based on assumptions of different types of mechanisms that might be used to implement this bill:

- --If a new electronic "look up" site was created that would contain the confidential information, there would be start-up costs of \$100,000.
- --If a system of user IDs and passwords was created for law enforcement agencies, there will need to be a full-time staff person to act as a user account administrator.
- --There would be ongoing annual costs of approximately \$15,000 to update and maintain the newly created system.

The bill is also likely to increase the costs of local law enforcement agencies receiving the information, if they need to reprogram or adjust their information technology systems in order to receive the information in a usable fashion.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications