

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 2/1/2014

LRB Number	13-4086/1	Introduction Number	SB-529	Estimate Type	Original
Description Evaluation of infants for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and referral of infants who have that condition for services and treatment					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires a hospital employee who provides health care, a social worker or a juvenile court intake worker who suspects that an infant has fetal alcohol spectrum disorder to refer the infant to a physician for an evaluation for that disorder and requires a physician to determine whether the infant has the disorder. If the physician diagnoses an infant with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, the physician is required to report that diagnosis to the child welfare agency. The bill requires the child welfare agency to offer those infants diagnosed with the disorder and the infant's mother services and treatment.

This bill could increase the number of persons referred to child welfare agencies, which would require child welfare agencies to incur additional staff costs associated with the referral, but those costs are expected to be relatively small. The child welfare agency would refer families who do not meet the criteria for being screened in to the child welfare system to services available in the community. For this reason, the bill is not expected to have a significant fiscal effect on the Department or counties.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications