

Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 17-4466/1	Introduction Number AB-0775
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Description
 the showing of a substantial likelihood that a parent will not meet the conditions established for the safe return of the child to the home in a termination of parental rights proceeding

Fiscal Effect

State:

No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
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Local:

No Local Government Costs
 Indeterminate

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <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 type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
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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	

Agency/Prepared By DCF/ Kim Swissdorf (608) 422-6351	Authorized Signature Kim Swissdorf (608) 422-6351	Date 12/29/2017
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 12/29/2017

LRB Number	17-4466/1	Introduction Number	AB-0775	Estimate Type	Original
Description the showing of a substantial likelihood that a parent will not meet the conditions established for the safe return of the child to the home in a termination of parental rights proceeding					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill makes changes to the grounds for an involuntary termination of parental rights (TPR) based on a child's continuing need of protection or services (continuing CHIPS) where a child has been placed outside the home for a cumulative total of six months.

Under current law, a TPR proceeding must be filed for a child who has been placed outside the home under a CHIPS order for 15 of the past 22 months. An involuntary TPR for a continuing CHIPS may also be based on the court or jury's finding that:

- the child has been placed outside the home for a cumulative period of 6 months or longer under the CHIPS order,
- the parent has failed to meet the conditions established for the safe return of the child to the home, and
- there is substantial likelihood that the parent will fail to meet the conditions for safe return within the next 9 months after the TPR fact-finding hearing.

The proposed bill replaces this third requirement with a requirement to show that, for a child who has been placed out of the home for less than 15 of the past 22 months, there is a substantial likelihood that the parent will not meet conditions for the safe return of the child to the home at the time the child will have been placed outside the home for 15 of the last 22 months.

It is unknown how the provisions of this bill might affect the number of TPRs. It may shorten the time to a TPR that would occur under current law, and/or it could increase the number of TPRs. If TPRs did increase as a result of the provisions of this bill, then costs to county corporation counsel, the District Attorney's office, public defenders, and the courts would increase because termination of parental rights is a legal process.

DCF is responsible for case management costs incurred by counties post-TPR. If the number of TPRs increases as a result of this bill, costs of related DCF contracts would likely need to increase to accommodate increased post-TPR costs. This may also increase state foster care payments that are paid by DCF post-TPR. Similarly, adoption assistance payments may increase due to additional children in the program if the number of TPRs increased. However, if TPR processes shorten due to the changes in this bill, counties may be responsible for fewer months of foster care payments.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications