

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 3/2/2018

LRB Number	17-4633/1	Introduction Number	AB-0979	Estimate Type	Original
Description requiring department review of public benefit databases					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill would require the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to compare its public benefit database information against nationally recognized databases that contain information on death records, in order to identify public benefit program participants that are deceased. If DCF determines during a review of public benefit database information that a participant is deceased, the bill requires DCF to remove that individual from any of DCF's public benefit databases. Given that the bill creates this requirement under Chapter 49 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the database review requirement would apply to participant information for the Wisconsin Works (W-2) and Wisconsin Shares programs.

The department estimates it would cost an additional \$189,000 to \$441,000 for information technology work needed to automate a data exchange at quarterly intervals to check W-2 participant information against death records. Currently, data is sent from the Social Security Administration to the Client Assistance for Reemployment and Economic Support (CARES) system on a nightly basis for cases that had some data change on that day such as an income change or SSI/SSA benefit determination. Thus, a data exchange happens when a person is added to a W-2 case, renews for W-2 benefits, applies for W-2 benefits or reports some other change to their case. The W-2 program has an automated match process that sends out notices to affected cases when a match is identified. Because the bill as drafted requires data matches to be done on a quarterly basis, the department would need to change its current nightly data match process to force a run on a quarterly basis for any case that did not have a data exchange in that quarter.

Currently, when a parent applies for or renews Shares child care benefits, the child care agency worker enters the child's Social Security Number (SSN) into CARES, and if the SSN matches against death records from the Social Security Administration, the parent's application or renewal is denied. This provides a manual check against death records at least once every 12 months. In addition, authorizations could be ended by a child care agency if a child care provider, in accordance with DCF 201, reports to the agency that a child has not attended child care for 30 days. In order to satisfy the quarterly data match requirement specified under the bill, the department estimates up to \$500,000 in information technology costs to automate a data match on a quarterly basis in the Wisconsin Shares program.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications