

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 1/19/2018

LRB Number	17-5044/1	Introduction Number	SB-653	Estimate Type	Original
Description foster home licensing					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The intent of the bill is to provide continuity of foster care when the license of the child welfare agency to license foster homes is revoked, suspended, or surrendered or when a contract with an agency to provide foster care licensing services is terminated. Under the bill, if DCF revokes or suspends a child welfare agency's license allowing them to license foster homes or a DCF contract to perform those services is terminated or surrendered or if a child welfare agency surrenders such a license or terminates such a contract (such as when a private agency goes out of business), then DCF may transfer each foster home license issued by the agency to a county department, DCF, or another child welfare agency that consents to the transfer. In the event of a child welfare agency closure, the bill allows DCF to request certain records and prohibits the agency from accepting new placements or issuing new licenses.

The bill also provides additional flexibility regarding foster home licenses issued in one county by an out-of-county public licensing agency, subject to agreement between the affected counties.

Finally, the bill provides that a child welfare or public licensing agency may revoke a foster home license if the licensee has violated any provision of the Children's Code or the foster care administrative rules.

DCF child welfare licensing staff currently work through license transfers as part of their current workload, so this bill would not have any fiscal impact for DCF. In addition, no additional costs for counties are anticipated.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications