

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.  
DCF 38 and 56

Amendment No. if Applicable

FISCAL ESTIMATE  
DOA-2048 N(R03/97)

- ORIGINAL       UPDATED  
 CORRECTED       SUPPLEMENTAL

**Subject**

Foster Care and Treatment Foster Care

**Fiscal Effect**

State:       No State Government costs       Indeterminate

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation  
or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb  
Within Agency's Budget  Yes     No

- Increase Existing Appropriation       Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Appropriation       Decrease Existing Revenues  
 Create New Appropriation

Decrease Costs

Local:  No local government costs       Indeterminate

1.  Increase Costs  
     Permissive       Mandatory  
2.  Decrease Costs  
     Permissive       Mandatory

3.  Increase Revenues  
     Permissive       Mandatory  
4.  Decrease Revenues  
     Permissive       Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:  
 Towns       Villages       Cities  
 Counties       Others \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Districts       WTCS Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**

- GPR     FED     PRO     PRS     SEG     SEG-S

**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

This rule incorporates the administrative rule under Chapter 38 into Chapter 56 to create one universal licensing code for foster care and treatment foster care providers. This is the second phase of creating the Levels of Care system passed in 2009 Wisconsin Act 28. This rule establishes the requirements for certification at levels 3, 4, and 5. A foster home is licensed at these levels based on a number of factors, including the level of knowledge, skill, training, and experience of the licensee. This rule establishes the minimum amount of training at each of these levels. In addition, this rule mandates the use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) rating tool. This rating tool is designed to consistently identify the needs of children, ensure that providers are addressing those needs, and determine reimbursements to foster and treatment foster parents.

The rule will affect counties and the Department, which operates the child welfare program in Milwaukee County. The rule is not anticipated to affect current foster care and treatment foster care providers. Most existing providers meet the qualifications in the rule and existing providers are grandfathered into the rule.

The implementation of the CANS rating tool may identify some unmet needs for children, which could increase the costs of providing services to these children. Also, the CANS rating tool could more appropriately identify a lesser level of need for children who already are receiving special services, which may decrease costs to serve these children. Additionally, providing children with adequate services may reduce the length of stay for children in out-of-home care, reducing long-term costs. The net effect of these scenarios cannot be determined.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

None

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**Date**

12/17/2010