

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 0235-02
Bill No.: HB 143
Subject: Children and Minors; Family Law; Family Services Division; Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies
Type: Original
Date: February 8, 2011

Bill Summary: This legislation changes the laws regarding hotline calls reporting child abuse and neglect to the Children’s Division within the Department of Social Services.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.
This fiscal note contains 5 pages.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- Estimated Total Net Effect on All funds expected to exceed \$100,000 savings or (cost).
- Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue Fund expected to exceed \$100,000 (cost).

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Sections 210.135 & 210.145:

Officials from the **Boone County Sheriff's Department, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Department of Health and Senior Services, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Department of Corrections, Office of Prosecution Services, Department of Public Safety** and the **Springfield Missouri Police Department** each assume the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies.

Officials from the **Office of the Attorney General** assume any potential costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources.

Officials from the **Department of Social Services-Children's Division** states the Division does not anticipate a fiscal or programmatic impact based on the following:

Section 210.135.3: The Division now has a process in place in which to offer assistance to staff in cases where it might be likely that staff are traumatized. Staff may now be removed from duties, when appropriate, at the direction of the division director.

Section 210.145.4: Currently both initial and repeat calls undergo the same screening process at the child abuse neglect hotline, which is based on statutory definition and criteria. This legislation would not change screen criteria and would not create a fiscal or programmatic impact for the Division.

Section 210.145.6: The Child Abuse/Neglect Unit screening process contains scripted language to instruct callers to contact 911 in instances where the child may be in immediate danger.

Currently Division workers use their own judgment on when it is appropriate to leave documentation on attempted visits; however it is common practice not to leave documentation. The Division would agree that number 1, 2 and 4 are reasonable criteria for not leaving documentation. Number 3 "the alleged perpetrator will be alerted regarding the attempted visit" would be more difficult to assess or control. There are situations where it makes more sense to leave documentation for families to contact the Division as soon as possible, such as in situations where we are trying to locate a victim who may need medical treatment. Currently in such a case the threat to a child who does not receive needed medical treatment would be weighed against the likelihood that the perpetrator may be alerted and the surrounding circumstances that put the

ASSUMPTION (continued)

child at risk. The Division would not however anticipate a fiscal or programmatic impact with respect to this provision.

Currently the Children's Division uses the CS-24, Description of the Investigation Process, to comply with 210.183 RSMo., which provides that "At the time of the initial investigation of a report of child abuse or neglect, the Division employee conducting the investigation shall provide the alleged perpetrator with a written description of the investigation process." The CS-24 provides the alleged perpetrator with a description of the investigation process, the alleged perpetrator appeal process and a statement of consumer rights which includes a Legal representation at all stages of the investigation and subsequent proceedings. This written material may require minor modification to accommodate the provisions of this legislation as well as modification to Division policy; however the Division would not anticipate a fiscal impact.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2012 (10 Mo.)	FY 2013	FY 2014
	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

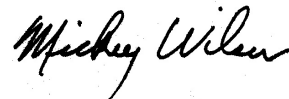
FISCAL DESCRIPTION

The proposed legislation appears to have no fiscal impact.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of the Attorney General
Office of the State Courts Administrator
Department of Corrections
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Social Services
Department of Public Safety
Missouri State Highway Patrol
Office of Prosecution Services
Boone County Sheriff's Department
Springfield Missouri Police Department



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Director
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