

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 29, 2010
POSITION: Neutral
SPONSOR: Los Angeles County District Attorney

BILL NUMBER: AB 2229
AUTHOR: J. Brownley

BILL SUMMARY: Mandated Child Abuse Reporting

This bill would revise the requirements and authorizations of multidisciplinary personnel teams (MDTs) that are formed to address the prevention, identification, management, or treatment of child abuse. This bill would require MDTs to consist of at least two members and would allow for the exchange of relevant confidential information via electronic transmission or phone. This bill would further require agencies to develop memoranda of understanding to govern the exchange of confidential information. The provisions of this bill will sunset on January 1, 2014.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would result in no new costs to the state. This bill would not create any additional workload for state departments and would only cause minor non-reimbursable costs to counties that choose to form MDTs.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill.

Current law allows counties to establish MDTs of at least three members and allows confidential information to be shared in person, but does not specify what forms of communication are permissible. This bill would allow MDTs to consist of two members and would allow confidential information to be shared electronically or by phone. Any exchange of confidential information would be limited to 48 hours after the initial report of child abuse or neglect.

This bill is intended to facilitate the sharing of information regarding child abuse and neglect. When making an initial determination of whether or not child abuse or neglect has occurred, MDTs are under time restraints to make a decision. Reducing the minimum number of members per MDT, and allowing communication of confidential information via telephone or e-mail would help expedite the handling of child abuse cases. The provisions of this bill mirror those of current law that specifies the authorizations and requirements for MDTs established to address elder abuse (Chapter 594, Statutes of 1994, Mello, SB 1681).

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2010-2011 FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013	FC		
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No	-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----			0001

Analyst/Principal (0512) J. Wordlaw	Date	Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann L. Mangat	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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