

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 30, 2011
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: Women Lawyers of Sacramento

BILL NUMBER: AB 1147
AUTHOR: M. Yamada

BILL SUMMARY: Dependent Children: Status Reports

This bill would require social workers to include additional information in their case reports regarding foster youth who are also minor parents. Specifically, a social worker would need to describe the services that were provided to the dependent youth and his or her child that assisted the foster youth in providing a safe home for the child.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Social Services (DSS) has indicated that this bill would likely result in minimal and absorbable costs to the department. Current law requires services to be provided to dependent minor parents and their children and many social workers currently document these services as part of their case reports. However, this bill would impose an additional requirement on social workers, which would create the potential for a state-reimbursable mandate and additional General Fund costs.

Under realignment, counties would fully bear the cost of the Foster Care program. However, pending additional realignment implementation legislation, the state would be responsible for any new mandate costs resulting from this measure.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because prescribing additional requirements conflicts with maximizing flexibility to counties under realignment. In addition, it would be inappropriate to add these requirements during a time of limited state resources. The DSS states these costs are likely to be minor and absorbable; however, this bill would impose a state-reimbursable mandate and would allow counties to submit mandate claims for workload that many are already doing.

Existing law requires the DSS and county welfare departments, to the greatest extent possible, to provide services to dependent minor parents and their children that support, maintain, and develop the parent-child bond and the minor parent's ability to provide a safe home. However, there is no requirement that social workers document these services as part of the minor parent's case report, even though many social workers already do so.

Proponents of this bill argue that it would codify an activity that is already a part of the normal workload of social workers. However, by doing so, this bill would allow counties to claim the workload associated with this bill as a state-reimbursable mandate, regardless of whether or not they already perform this task.

Analyst/Principal (0512) Teresa Calvert Date Assistant Program Budget Manager Nicholas Buchen Date

Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

**BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)**

**AUTHOR**

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----			0001
5180/Social Svcs	LA	No		-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----			0001