

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: Children's Advocacy Institute

BILL NUMBER: AB 1751
AUTHOR: Pan, Richard

BILL SUMMARY: Child support: access to information.

This bill would authorize county welfare and probation agencies to obtain identifying and contact information for parents of children subject to juvenile court proceedings from the California Parent Locator Service (CA-PLS) to identify, notify, and assess noncustodial parents for the placement of dependent children. This bill would also require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to amend the state foster care plan and issue an all-county letter explaining that county welfare and probation agencies are entitled to specified information contained in child and spousal support records. This bill would authorize DSS to develop an interagency agreement with the Department of Child Support Services (DCSS) delineating the terms of use of the CA-PLS by the county welfare and probation agencies.

FISCAL SUMMARY

According to DSS, this bill would not result in any additional costs to the department since child welfare agencies are already provided with CA-PLS data by DCSS. DCSS could receive additional requests for information from county welfare agencies as a result of this bill, but this increased workload could be absorbed within existing resources.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it is unnecessary. DCSS is already authorized to provide parent location information to state and county departments administering child welfare programs and maintains processes to make this information available. Also, this bill would require DSS to update the Title IV State Plan to implement this access of information; however, according to DSS, this is not a federal requirement of the state plan and therefore would not be approved by the federal Administration on Children and Families. Furthermore, this bill would require DSS to establish a process to access DCSS data when it would be more appropriate for DCSS to be the entity managing access to their data systems.

According to the author's office, current law does not explicitly allow county child welfare agencies and probation officers to utilize the child support information database and, as a result, social workers do not regularly access this information. However, while not explicit in law, processes already exist that allow for this information to be shared between DCSS and county child welfare and probation staff.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code	
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014 FC	2014-2015 FC		
5175/ChildSupport	SO	No			-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0001
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No			-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0001

Analyst/Principal (0512) T.Calvert	Date	Program Budget Manager Ken DaRosa	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____