



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
2009-10 Legislative Session

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL: 2258

PRINTER'S NO: 3591

PRIME SPONSOR: Briggs

FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY	FY 2009/10	FY 2010/11
Expenditure Increase/(Decrease):		
General Fund	\$0	\$0

OVERVIEW:

House Bill 2258 amends subsection 6351 of Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure), relating to disposition of a dependent child, to provide for sibling placement and visitation affecting children in foster care. Under the bill, a court shall determine whether reasonable efforts were made to place siblings together if removed from a home or whether joint placement is contrary to the safety or well-being of the child. In addition, if siblings are placed in different settings, the court shall enter an order ensuring visitation no less than twice a month, with an exception for findings that visitation is contrary to the safety or well-being of the child.

The act shall take effect in 60 days.

The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 made it a federal statutory requirement that agencies make reasonable efforts to place siblings together and to maintain connections when placement together was not possible.

ANALYSIS:

The Department of Public Welfare notes that the requirements put forth in the bill are current practice within the Office of Children, Youth and Families and county agencies. In addition, please note the federal requirement which is consistent with the requirements of the bill. Therefore, the department does not anticipate any additional costs as a result of House Bill 2258.

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House Appropriations Committee, (D)

DATE: May 24, 2010

General Note and Disclaimer: *This Fiscal Note was prepared pursuant to House Rule 19(a), and the elements considered and reported above are required by Section 5 of the rule. Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.*