

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3862-15
Bill No.: Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed CCS for HS for HCS for SS for SCS for SB's
 923, 828, 876, 694 & 736
Subject: Children and Minors
Type: Original
Date: June 28, 2002

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Revenue	(Unknown, over \$965,782)	(Unknown, over \$1,063,936)	(Unknown, over \$1,077,516)
Criminal Record System	(\$4,167)	(\$5,000)	(\$5,000)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds	(Unknown, over \$969,949)	(Unknown, over \$1,068,936)	(Unknown, over \$1,082,516)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Federal	(\$206,931)	(\$131,461)	(\$143,157)
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	(\$206,931)	(\$131,461)	(\$143,157)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

This fiscal note contains 16 pages.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** state this bill would modify various provisions related to children and families. The Division of Family Services, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Department of Public Safety and the Department of Health and Senior Services could promulgate rules pertaining to this proposal. Based on experience with other divisions, the rules, regulations and forms could require as many as 88 pages in the *Code of State Regulations*. For any given rule, roughly one-half again as many pages are published in the *Missouri Register* as are published in the Code because cost statements, fiscal notes and notices are not published in the Code. The estimated cost of a page in the *Missouri Register* is \$23.00. The estimated cost of a page in the *Code of State Regulations* is \$27.00. The actual costs could be more or less than the \$5,412 estimated. The fiscal impact of this legislation in future years is unknown and depends upon the frequency and length of rules filed, amended, rescinded and withdrawn.

Oversight assumes the SOS could absorb the costs of printing and distributing regulations related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require the printing and distribution of regulations at substantial costs, the SOS could request funding through the appropriation process. Any decisions to raise fees to defray costs would likely be made in subsequent fiscal years.

SECTION 28.160 - Fees for processing records of children to be adopted

Officials of the **Office of Secretary of State** assume fiscal impact would depend upon the number of documents that a foreign government would require of adopting couples. The fiscal impact could be a positive or a negative Unknown, however, fiscal impact (either positive or negative) in a given year would not exceed \$40,000.

Officials of the **Department of Social Services** assume no fiscal impact.

SECTION 135.327 - Sales of Tax Credits for Adoption Expenses

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** and the **Department of Economic Development** state this proposal would have no administrative impact on their agencies.

Oversight assumes this proposal would not change the annual \$2 million cap allowed for in Section 135.327.3 which states "The cumulative amount of tax credits which may be claimed by taxpayers for nonrecurring adoption expenses in any one fiscal year shall not exceed two million dollars." Oversight has no information regarding the number of tax credits that are either assigned, transferred or sold. Therefore, Oversight assumes this proposal would not fiscally impact the revenues of the state.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

SECTIONS 191.227 and 191.233 - Cost-of-Living Adjustment for Providing Copies of Patient Health Records

Oversight assumes costs or savings to state agencies would depend upon changes in the cost-of-living and the frequency of the need for receiving copies of affected health records. Officials of the **Department of Health and Senior Services** stated that they update costs and post new costs on their website with existing resources.

Officials of the **Department of Social Services' Division of Medical Services** estimated additional costs of less than \$100,000 in a given year for medical records requested in conjunction with fee-for-service utilization reviews of Medicaid providers. (Additional costs would be less than \$40,000 to general revenue and less than \$60,000 to federal funds). Officials of the **Division of Family Services** estimate increased costs to general revenue of \$1,813 in FY 2003, \$6,740 in FY 2004 and \$13,136 for FY 2005. Increased costs to federal funds would be \$893, \$3,320 and \$6,470 for the same periods.

SECTION 191.925 - Newborn Hearing Screening

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** assume the proposed legislation will have no fiscal impact to their organization.

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DOH)** stated there will not be any additional cost to the DOH. A newborn screening reporting and case management system has already been developed and will be in place to track babies' hearing screening status.

SECTION 192.016 - Putative Father Registry

Officials of the **Department of Health and Senior Services** stated that the change is technical and will have no fiscal impact.

SECTION 208.334 - Welfare Reform Progress Report

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DOS)** stated they would carry out duties under the proposal with existing resources.

SECTION 210.001 - Camden County, Clay-Platte County and Lake Area Child Assessment Centers

Officials from the **Department of Social Services (DOS)** stated that an additional \$750,000 would be required to bring the proposed additional Child Assessment Centers (CAC) to the same

ASSUMPTION (continued)

level as the CAC's currently receiving funding through the DOS. Officials stated that the operators of the child assessment centers have come to an agreement to change the formula for financing those centers so that new assessment centers would not require additional state funding, however this proposal does not reference the agreement. The \$750,000 represents the maximum possible cost due to these provisions.

SECTIONS 210.115 AND 352.400 - Reporting of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

Officials of the **State Courts Administrator** would not expect enough new cases to affect the state courts, fiscally.

SECTION 210.145 - Exemption from Listing in Child Abuse Central Registry and Interviews of Victims of Alleged Child Abuse

None of the agencies responding indicated that the exemption would have significant fiscal impact.

Officials of the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education**, in response to a proposal with similar language concerning interviews, stated that the proposal would not have any fiscal impact on their agency.

Officials of **Department of Social Services - Division of Family Services** (DOS - DFS), in response to identical language as this proposal, requested 24.8 FTE due to this part of the proposal.

The proposal would require DFS officials to contact the parents of a possible child victim before interviewing the child (unless the parent were suspected abusers) and would require officials to conduct child interviews away from the site of alleged abuse. Both requirements would add to the time DFS workers would devote to cases.

Officials used data from calendar year 2001 to estimate effects of this proposal. There were 59,303 Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) reports made in 2001. 19,570 of the reports were screened as an investigation. About 80% (15,656) had allegations of abuse occurring in the child's home.

Officials estimate that caseworkers would have spent an additional two (2) hours per case notifying non-suspect parent(s) prior to interviewing each child in a neutral setting, away from the home in which the alleged abuse occurred. This would have been an additional 31,312 work-hours (15,656 cases x 2 hours per case) during 2001. Assuming an average caseworker works 2,000 hours per year, this amounts to the need for an additional 15.7 Children's Service Workers.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

DOS workload measures recommend a Supervisor I for each seven (7) Children's Service Workers ($15.7/7 = 2.2$ Supervisors I), a Supervisor III for every three Supervisors I ($2.2/3 = .7$ Supervisors III), and a Clerk-Typist for every 3 professional staff ($18.6/3 = 6.2$ Clerk Typists). Costs would be approximately 67% General Revenue Fund and 33% Federal Funds.

DFS officials also note that requiring CA/N reports be shared with school district liaison, who would retain them as all other school records are retained could have a non-fiscal impact. Provisions of the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act would supercede Missouri law. Subsection 210.150.5 allows alleged perpetrators named in CA/N reports access to the reports unless DFS determines identifying information in a report could place a person in jeopardy or criminal charges are pending. The proposal allows the possibility of alleged perpetrators gaining access to information (including names and addresses of witnesses) not available to them under current law.

Oversight assumed a 2040 hour working year and assumes DFS would request 15 Children's Service Workers, 2 Supervisors I, and 5 Clerk-Typists. Oversight also assumes additional personnel would be located in existing facilities and has excluded rental costs.

However, the sponsor of the language in question has stated (in a letter to the Governor dated June 18, 2002, that the intent is to apply the requirements only to situations occurring at schools and day care establishments.

Division of Family Services officials indicated that they would be able to carry out duties under these provisions of the proposal with existing resources.

SECTION 210.001 - Change in Definition of "Child Care Facility"

None of the agencies responding indicated that this part of the proposal would have fiscal impact.

SECTION 210.566 - Foster Parents Rights and Responsibilities

Officials of **Department of Social Services' Division of Youth Services** stated that the Division uses services of foster parents for some hard to place youths. The Division provides support services but does not provide formal training. Officials estimate cost of training at \$925 per family for twenty-seven (27) hours of training (Division of Family Services' cost for foster parent training). They note that the Division places twenty (20) or fewer persons in foster care each year. Assuming training would be provided by the Division of Family Services, there would be no costs to the Division.

ASSUMPTION (continued)

SECTION 210.906 - Family Care Safety Registry

Officials of **Department of Social Services - Division of Family Services** and the **Department of Health and Senior Services** noted that foster parents automatically registered for the Family Care Safety Registry would no longer pay to register. DOS forwards the five-dollar (\$5.00) fee to the Highway Patrol for background screening.

SECTION 210.1007 - List of Unsafe Children's Product

Officials from the **Department of Health and Senior Services (DOH)** stated the DOH must provide child care providers a comprehensive list of children's products that have been identified by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) as unsafe by July 1, 2003, and quarterly thereafter. As this information is available on the CPSC website, and existing staff can obtain this information, there will be no additional costs to the DOH for this requirement. The costs for copying and mailing this information to child care providers are as follows:

Copying costs: Based on a review of CPSC recall statements, the average number of recalls affecting children is estimated to be eleven (11) per month. Therefore, it would be necessary to mail an average of 28 pages to each child care provider for each month. The copies can be two-sided. Therefore, there would be an average of 14 pages that must be mailed to each child care provider per month. The cost for two-sided copying is \$.045 per copy for a total of \$0.63 (\$.045 x 14) monthly copying costs for each child care provider. As the information must be provided quarterly, the copying costs for each child care provider quarterly would be \$1.89.

There are 3,777 child care providers. Therefore, the total quarterly copying costs would be \$7,139 (\$1.89 x 3,777). The annual copying costs would be \$28,556 (4 x \$7,139).

Costs for Stuffing Envelopes: It would be necessary to contract with another agency to stuff the envelopes. The rate for stuffing envelopes is \$.05 per envelope. There are 3,777 child care facilities. Therefore, the costs for stuffing the envelopes would be \$189 quarterly (\$.05 x 3,777) and \$756 annually (4 x \$189).

Mailing Costs: It would be necessary to mail 3,777 envelopes containing the CPSC recall statements to child care providers quarterly. The cost for mailing each envelope (bulk rate) is \$0.4560 per envelope or \$1,722 for each quarterly mailing (\$0.4560 x 3,777). The annual mailing cost would be \$6,889 (4 x \$1,722).

Total costs: The total annual costs to copy the materials, stuff the envelopes, and mail the materials to child care providers would be \$36,201 (\$28,556 + \$756 + \$6,889 = \$36,201).

ASSUMPTION (continued)

Child care staff must document each facility's compliance with past signed and dated notification forms during regular inspections, and instruct child care providers to dispose of all unsafe children's products. As this can be accomplished during regular inspections, there are no additional costs to the DOH for this purpose.

Finally, DOH officials would request one (1.00) clerk typist II to obtain information from the CPSC website; determine which recall statements pose a threat to children and eliminate those that don't; prepare copies and submit to child care staff and supervisors who will monitor them for compliance; manage the contract for stuffing the envelopes; assemble the materials for submission to the contractor who will stuff the envelopes; obtain the packet from the contractor and prepare for mailing; handle complaints and problems that arise from providing and mailing the information to child care providers; track the recall statements that have been submitted to child care providers in order to monitor them appropriately; and work closely with supervisors and staff to ensure efficient monitoring of the recall statements.

Oversight assumes the DOH could absorb the additional work with existing staff resources. However, if the number of quarterly mailings were to increase significantly, the DOH may need to request additional staff through the appropriations process.

SECTION 211.031 - Juvenile Court Jurisdiction

Officials of the **State Courts Administrator** indicated that they would not expect the proposal to significantly affect state courts.

SECTION 211.181 - Treatment Services in Least Restrictive Setting

Officials of the **Department of Social Services'** divisions of **Family Services (DFS)** and **Medical Services (DMS)** stated that they would be affected by this part of the proposal. DFS officials estimate that there are approximately 500 children in Division custody for the sole purpose of mental health treatment. If two (2) required residential treatment as part of a treatment plan, the cost would be more than \$100,000 in a fiscal year.

DMS officials note that some of the children would be Medicaid recipients and, to the extent that the Department of Mental Health lacks funds to provide treatments, DMS would be responsible for funding necessary care. DMS officials expect costs to Medicaid would be over \$100,000 per year to general revenue.

SECTIONS 294.011 TO 294.141 - Child Labor

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator** assume after a period of

ASSUMPTION (continued)

adjustment, they would expect substantial compliance, and would not anticipate a significant impact on the budget of the judiciary.

Officials from the **Department of Agriculture** assume the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact on their agency.

Officials from the **Department of Labor and Industrial Relations** stated that the provisions of this proposal would not have fiscal impact on their agency.

SECTION 452.402 - Grandparent Visitation

Officials from the **Department of Social Services** and **Office of State Courts Administrator** stated the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact on their organizations.

SECTIONS 454.606 TO 454.700 - National Medical Support Notice

Officials from the **Department of Social Services - Division of Medical Services (DOS - DMS)** stated that the proposal would aid DMS in collecting recoveries from insurance companies which provide benefits to Medicaid eligibles (third-party liability - TPL - recoveries).

Children are an automatic bypass for TPL recoveries. DMS pays Medicaid providers for medical services for Medicaid eligible children and then attempts to recover payments from health benefits plans when DMS discovers that the eligible has commercial health insurance coverage. This process is called "pay and chase".

The **Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE)** estimates that 4,488 children per year have health insurance coverage as part of their child support. DMS's experience has been that 33% of these cases are covered by commercial health insurance. The average annual TPL collection from child support health insurance recoveries is \$357.95. DMS officials estimate potential additional recoveries as:

$$4,488 \times 33\% = 1,481 \text{ cases} \times \$357.95 \text{ per case} = \$530,124$$

DCSE officials stated that DCSE personnel would have to send a National Medical Support Notice (NMSN) with each income withholding notice to an employer or union within two business days after a new hire is entered into the State Directory of New Hires when: 1) the non-custodial parent (NCP) has been ordered to provide medical insurance but is not doing so, or 2) an income withholding notice is deemed inappropriate but it is appropriate to send an NMSN.

Officials stated that the Division issued 98,087 income withholding notices and that 66% of

ASSUMPTION (continued)

NCPs has been ordered to provide medical insurance. The Division would, therefore, mail 64,737 NMSNs annually. The Division already sends withholding notices via certified mail. Each NMSN would add 2 ounces to the mailings.

Additional postage would be $64,737 \times \$.46 = \$29,779$.

DCSE officials anticipate the proposal would increase inquiries from custodial parents, non-custodial parents, employers and unions, increase hearings and require additional time to enter insurance data into the Missouri Automated Child Support System (MACSS).

Officials anticipate that 72% of NCPs would be offered health insurance coverage through their employers, therefore 46,611 NMSNs ($64,737 \times .72$) could affect Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Technicians. Officials also note that the Division also sends out about 21,183 (actual in FY 2001) Orders to Enroll dependents in health benefit plans.

$46,611 - 21,183 = 25,428$ additional notices.

Each notice take about one-half hour to complete.

$25,428 \times .5 \text{ hours} = 12,714 \text{ hours} / 2080 \text{ hours per year} = 6 \text{ FTE}$.

CSE Technicians would have additional duties of contacting custodial parents, reviewing health benefit options and choosing a health care plan in some cases. This process takes an average of 1.5 hours per case. DCSE officials estimate (using Kaiser Foundation research) that of the 46,611 NMSNs where the NCP would be offered health insurance by the employer, 17% are not enrolled in employer-offered plans and 65% are offered more than one insurance plan option.

$46,611 \text{ NMSNs} \times .17 = 7,924 \text{ notices} \times .65 = 5,151 \text{ notices requiring review}$

$5,151 \times 1.5 \text{ hours} = 7,727 \text{ hours} / 2080 \text{ hours per year} = 4 \text{ FTE}$.

DCSE workload measures are one supervisor per five CSEs and one clerical support person per three professional staff, thus officials would request 10 Child Support Enforcement Technicians, two Child Support Enforcement Supervisors, two Clerk Typists II and a Clerk Typist III to carry out duties related to this proposal.

DCSE officials estimate that changes to the MACSS would require 250 hours through a third party contractor. The contractor cost would be \$105 per hour. Total cost would be \$26,250.

DCSE officials also estimated an impact on DMS Medicaid programs. Officials determined that

ASSUMPTION (continued)

(based on FY 2001 activity) DCSE would issue 43,554 additional medical notices annually due to this proposal.

(98,087 NMSNs x .66 cases where NCP has been ordered to provide health insurance - (minus) 21,183 medical notices already sent out each year = 43,554 additional notices)

DCSE officials determined that 47% of IV-D cases are on Medicaid, therefore 20,470 medical notices will go to IV-D Medicaid cases. DCSE surveys show that the employer or union enrolls the child in their health insurance plan 21% of the time, after receiving a medical notice. DCSE officials assume that the implementation of NMSN would make the assurance of insurance available to the NCP (non-custodial parent) unknown. Therefore, for fiscal note purposes, DCSE officials assume that IV-D children would be enrolled in employer or union health care plans 15% of the time, after receiving medical notices. The number of IV-D Medicaid cases where children would be enrolled in the NCP's health plan is estimated at 3,070 (20,470 x .15) annually.

Officials estimate that with NMSN (National Medical Support Notice) requirements, they would send notices to TPL (third party liability) in 86% of IV-D Medicaid cases. There are an average of 1.7 children per IV-D case; therefore 4,488 IV-D children would be covered for at least one month annually due to NMSN requirements.

(3,070 x .86 = 2,640 x 1.7 children per case = 4,488 children.)

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
<u>Cost</u> - Department of Social Services'			
Division of Family Services			
Expense- Mental Health Treatment	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)
<u>Cost</u> - Department of Social Services'			
Division of Medical Services			
Expense- Medicaid costs for Mental Health Treatment of children	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)

<u>Cost</u> - Department of Social Services			
Medical Records	(\$41,813)	(\$46,740)	(\$53,136)
<u>Income</u> - Department of Social Services - Division of Medical Services			
Increased Insurance Recoveries	\$205,529	\$205,529	\$205,529
<u>Cost</u> - Department of Social Services			
Additional Child Assessment Centers	(\$625,000)	(\$750,000)	(\$750,000)
<u>Cost</u> - Department of Social Services - Division of Child Support Enforcement			
Personal Service (5.1 FTE)	(\$146,746)	(\$150,415)	(\$154,715)
Fringe Benefits	(\$52,843)	(\$54,164)	(\$55,519)
Expense and Equipment	<u>(\$74,741)</u>	<u>(\$30,858)</u>	<u>(\$31,269)</u>
Administrative Costs to DOS	(\$274,330)	(\$235,437)	(\$241,503)

<u>Costs</u> - Department of Health and Senior Services			
Printing and Mailing Costs	(\$30,168)	(\$37,288)	(\$38,406)

Secretary of State			
Adoption fees*	Unknown to (Unknown)	Unknown to (Unknown)	Unknown to (Unknown)

* Loss of Income or Income from the adoption fee is not expected to exceed \$40,000 in a given year.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND	<u>(\$965,782)</u>	<u>(\$1,063,936)</u>	<u>(\$1,077,516)</u>
---	---------------------------	-----------------------------	-----------------------------

**CRIMINAL RECORD SYSTEM
FUND**

<u>Loss</u> - Fees from Family Safety Care Registry	(\$4,167)	(\$5,000)	(\$5,000)
--	-----------	-----------	-----------

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON CRIMINAL RECORD SYSTEM FUND	<u>(\$4,167)</u>	<u>(\$5,000)</u>	<u>(\$5,000)</u>
--	-------------------------	-------------------------	-------------------------

FEDERAL FUNDS

Income - Department of Social Services

Medical Records	\$60,893	\$63,320	\$66,470
-----------------	----------	----------	----------

Cost - Department of Social Services

Medical Records	(\$60,893)	(\$63,320)	(\$66,470)
-----------------	------------	------------	------------

Income - Department of Social Services'

Division of Medical Services

Federal Medicaid Matching Funds	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000	Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000
---------------------------------	--	--	--

Cost - Department of Social Services'

Division of Medical Services

Expense- Medicaid costs for Mental Health Treatment of children	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)	(Unknown, expected to exceed \$100,000)
--	--	--	--

Income - Department of Social Services -

Division of Medical Services

Increased Insurance Recoveries	\$324,595	\$324,595	\$324,595
--------------------------------	-----------	-----------	-----------

Cost - Department of Social Services -

Division of Child Support Enforcement

Personal Service (9.9 FTE)	(\$284,861)	(\$291,982)	(\$299,282)
Fringe Benefits	(\$102,578)	(\$105,143)	(\$107,771)
Expense and Equipment	<u>(\$144,087)</u>	<u>(\$58,931)</u>	<u>(\$60,699)</u>
Administrative Costs to DOS	(\$531,526)	(\$456,056)	(\$467,752)

**ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON
FEDERAL FUNDS**

	<u>(\$206,931)</u>	<u>(\$131,461)</u>	<u>(\$143,157)</u>
--	---------------------------	---------------------------	---------------------------

FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government

	FY 2003 (10 Mo.)	FY 2004	FY 2005
--	---------------------	---------	---------

	\$0	\$0	\$0
--	------------	------------	------------

FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business

Small businesses could be affected by this proposal.

DESCRIPTION

This proposal would modify a number of provisions of law concerning all aspects of child care and child protection.

This proposal would limit the amount of fee the Secretary of State could collect for processing apostilles, certifications, and authentications prior to the placement of a child for adoption to \$100 per child, per adoption, or per multiple children to be adopted at the same time.

The proposal would specify that sale of adoption tax credits to any entity (current law says to for profit entities) be at a discount rate of seventy-five percent or greater of the amount sold.

The proposal would change the adjustment index used to determine the amount of the handling fee and the per page fee licensed health care providers may charge persons who request copies of their medical records. Currently, the per-page fee is adjusted annually by the Market Basket Survey of the Health Care Financing Administration. Under the bill the annual adjustment would be based on the annual un-adjusted, medical care component of the Consumer Price Index as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

This proposal would provide that, effective January 1, 2002, any facility which transfers a newborn to a different facility for further acute care prior to the completion of the newborn hearing screening is required to notify the receiving facility of the current status of the hearing screening. If the hearing screening is incomplete, the receiving facility is responsible for completing the hearing screening for newborns.

Currently, hospitals or ambulatory surgical centers are required to perform the hearing screening for newborns delivered in their facilities prior to discharge.

The proposal would make technical corrections to statutory references pertaining to the Putative Father Registry and to the Uniform Parentage Act concerning the establishment of paternity.

This proposal would require the Division of Family Services to provide an annual report to the governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives on the status of welfare reform in Missouri. (This part of the proposal would expire on December 31, 2007.)

The proposal would add the Clay-Platte Child Assessment Center and the Camden County Child Assessment Center to the list of regional child assessment centers funded by the Department of Social Services.

This proposal would change some provisions of law governing investigation of allegations of child abuse or neglect.

DESCRIPTION (continued)

It would require Division of Family Services officials to notify parents of children who are alleged victims before interviewing the children unless the parents are suspects. Division officials could not interview a child at the site of the alleged abuse.

The proposal would also require each school district to have one person designated as liaison and would specify that all information the liaison receives about alleged child abuse and neglect cases be subject to the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C., Section 1232g, and federal rule 34 C. F. R., Part 99.

It would also add clergy to the list of persons required to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect.

It would change the definition of "child care facility" in section 210.201, RSMo, to exclude facilities operated in connection with business establishments which provide care for employees for less than four hours a day.

This proposal would set out the rights and responsibilities of the state, its contractors and foster parents with regard to foster care services.

This proposal would automatically register any person licensed under terms of sections 210.481 to 210.565 (Homes for Children - Foster Homes - Child Placing Agencies - Licensing) in the Family Care Safety Registry.

This proposal would require the Department of Health and Senior Services (DOH) to provide child care facilities with a comprehensive list of unsafe children's products, as identified by the Children's Product Safety Commission. DOH would provide initial notification on or before July 1, 2003, and quarterly thereafter. Child care facilities would, upon notification, their premises and immediately dispose of any unsafe products. DOH inspections would check for unsafe products during inspections of facilities. If a facility failed to dispose of a product after notice is given, it would be a violation under the inspection. The Department could promulgate rules for the implementation of this section.

The proposal would extend original jurisdiction of juvenile and family courts to those proceedings where a seventeen-year old is in need of mental health services and the guardian or custodian is unable to afford those services.

It would allow courts to order that children receive needed services in the least restrictive appropriate environment based upon an individualized treatment plan.

DESCRIPTION (continued)

This proposal would modify certain provisions of the child labor laws.

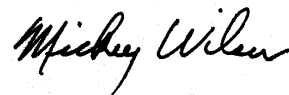
This proposal would modify visitation provisions related to grandparents. However, if the natural parents of the child are legally married and living together with the child, a grandparent may not file for visitation because it is presumed that the parents know what is in the best interest of the child.

This proposal would require the Department of Social Services' Division of Child Support Enforcement to use federal guidelines when notifying employers of their obligation to enroll an obligor's (usually a non-custodial parent's) child in their health benefits plan.

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Agriculture
Department of Economic Development
Department of Health and Senior Services
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations
Department of Mental Health
Department of Revenue
Department of Social Services
 Division of Family Services
 Division of Medical Services
 Division of Youth Services
State Courts Administrator
Secretary of State



Mickey Wilson, CPA
Acting Director

June 28, 2002