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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/29/09
 LAST UPDATED 03/12/09 HJM 21/HJCS

SPONSOR HJC

SHORT TITLE Improve Compact in Child Placement SB _____

ANALYST Peery-Galon

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total		Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Indeterminate	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

No Responses Received From

Attorney General's Office
 Human Services Department

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJC Substitute

The House Judiciary Committee Substitute for House Joint Memorial 21 requests that the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children administrator in the child protective services agency advocate for changes to upgrade filings to electronic documents and to authorize simultaneous filings in several jurisdictions. The memorial also requests that the Interstate Compact on Placement of Children administrator in the child protective services agency be asked to advocate with other state administrators to mandate that a ruling on an interstate child placement be issued within twenty-four hours of receipt.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

CYFD noted there is no appropriation contained within this substitute. The amount of funding necessary for CYFD to implement and maintain a system allowing for the electronic filing is unknown at this time.

AOC stated expedited adoptions may result in a decrease in hearings and reviews associated with delayed adoptions, thereby resulting in a savings in court time and resources.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD reported the lack of timeliness of decisions within Interstate Compact on Placement of Children has been documented nationally, and identified as a barrier to permanency through the federal national Child and Family Services Reviews. Although processes have been developed to allow prioritization of Interstate Compact on Placement of Children requests based upon case circumstances, these have met with limited success as state resources are often insufficient to meet level of service requests.

CYFD is a member of the American Public Human Services Association, the public body that developed the compact. Through that membership, CYFD has continued to press for timelier processing of interstate requests and eliminating other barriers to the placement of children across state lines for the purpose of foster care and adoption.

CYFD stated although electronic transmission of files would accelerate document processing, there are both setup and maintenance expenses that would be incurred, and which can be determined only after the system requirements are identified. Electronic transmission would not ensure a state’s ability to rule on an interstate child placement within twenty-four hours, as there are other processes that need to be completed, including interviews with proposed care takers, and licensing and/or certification processes that require additional time and effort.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures related to both expediency of placement and permanency of placement.

AOC noted that the joint memorial may have an impact on the following measures for district courts: cases disposed of as a percent of cases filed and percent change in case filings by case type.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD noted the administrative impact associated with this memorial would be absorbed by existing resources.

RPG/mt