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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/17/19

SPONSOR Sweetser LAST UPDATED _____ HB 443

SHORT TITLE Child Welfare Family Rep Task Force SB _____

ANALYST Torres

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$100.0	NFI	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SJM 10.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

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

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

HB 443 appropriates one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the general fund to the Administrative Office of the Courts to convene a family representation task force.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Administrative Office of the Courts estimates that the administrative costs associated with facilitating and managing the task force are \$96 thousand for a contract facilitator/project manager.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HB 433 appropriates funding for a family representation task force proposed by SJM 10, to: (1) examine the feasibility, costs and benefits of creating a system for providing legal representation to parties in child welfare matters and (2) recommend a structure that would support attorney

accountability, oversight, evaluation, training, compensation parity, and a complaint process. The joint memorial requires that the task force report and specify recommendations to the legislature no later than July 15, 2020.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Should SJM 10 pass without the appropriations made in HB 443, support for the taskforce established by SJM 10 will have to be absorbed by the AOC's existing resources.

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