Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Executive Budget and Finance

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

☑ Original ☐ Updated	Corrected Suppler	nental				
LRB Number 21-5639/1	Introduction Number SB-884	4				
Description expanding the Court-Appointed Special Advocate program						
Fiscal Effect						
Appropriations Reve	ease Existing enues Tease Existing enues The properties of the pr					
Permissive Mandatory Permission National	5.Types of Local Governme Units Affected Towns Counties Others School Mandatory Mandatory Districts Districts	Cities Tribes				
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations						
GPR FED PRO PRS	SEG SEGS					
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date				
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DCF 2/2/2022

LRB Number 21-5639/1	Introduction Number	SB-884	Estimate Type	Original		
Description						
expanding the Court-Appointed Special Advocate program						

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the governor to allocate under s. 16.54 a total of \$6.8 million of funding made available under section 602 of the federal Social Security Act as amended by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to the Wisconsin Court Appointed Special Advocate Association to expand the existing Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, and to create two new CASA county programs in 2022 and two new CASA county programs in 2023.

Current funding is provided to the Wisconsin CASA Association by the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and distributed from the appropriation under s. 20.455(5)(es) as authorized in s. 165.967. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) does not currently have a contractual or financial relationship with the Wisconsin CASA Association or local CASA programs. This estimate assumes the funding provided under this bill will be appropriated via its current funding authority and that there would therefore be no change in funding for DCF.

The Wisconsin CASA Association supports local CASA programs that enlist volunteers as a liaison between the legal and child welfare system to advocate for the needs of children who are the subject of CHIPS (children in need of protection or services) proceedings. The expansion of CASA programs to additional counties throughout the state as provided under this bill may impact the child welfare experience of children served by CASA program volunteers.

However, the department is unable to estimate the extent to which the funding under this bill may affect state, county, or tribal costs for out-of-home care. Therefore, the state and local fiscal effect is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications