

Revised to reflect amendments adopted through 3-5-09.

FISCAL NOTE
LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ANALYST ESTIMATE

ESTIMATE OF FISCAL IMPACT – STATE AGENCIES *				
	FY 2009-10		FY 2010-11	
	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE	EXPENDITURES	REVENUE
GENERAL FUNDS	2,900,784		4,934,601	
CASH FUNDS				
FEDERAL FUNDS				
OTHER FUNDS				
TOTAL FUNDS	2,900,784		4,934,601	

*Does not include any impact on political subdivisions. See narrative for political subdivision estimates.

This bill requires the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Children and Family Support hotline, establish a Family Navigator Program and provide voluntary post-adoption or post-guardianship case management. The hotline would be a single point of access for behavioral health triage; operate 24-hours a day, seven days a week; be staffed by licensed mental health practitioners or other licensed practitioners engaged in activities of mental health; provide screening and assessment and referral to community-based resources. The Family Navigator Program would provide peer support and connection to community-based services by trained individuals compensated by the Department of Health and Human Services. An annual report evaluating the three programs in the bill would be conducted.

All costs in FY 10 are for seven months and in FY 11 for 12 months. The department intends to contract for all services.

The statewide hotline costs would be \$1,015,000 in FY 10 and \$1,700,584 in FY 11. This includes the cost of operating the hotline and an ongoing public information campaign. The Family Navigators Program would cost \$611,984 in FY 10 and \$1,056,047 in FY 11 for eight supervisors, a project manager and training. These costs would be paid from general funds.

The evaluation is anticipated to cost \$75,000 in FY 10 and \$150,000 in FY 11. These costs would be paid from general funds.

The post-adoption and post-guardianship services are estimated to cost \$840,000 in FY 10 and \$1,409,350 in FY 11. Thirteen caseworkers would be needed. The contracted costs would be \$358,800 in FY 10 and \$618,620 in FY 11. The federal Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act provides new funding for state wards beginning October 1, 2010. Currently state general funds cover the cost for children not eligible for Title I-VE funds. This federal act eliminates the income requirement and allows a federal match for all children based on the individual child's needs. This will free up general funds. The freed up funds according to the act must be used to expand child welfare services. At this time the federal government has not published rules and regulations and any limitations or restrictions are unknown. For this reason, the general fund offset, although it may be allowable to use for the services in this bill, is not being utilized.

This fiscal note shows all costs to be from state general funds.

Technical Note: The bill contains the emergency clause. If it is intended that services begin earlier than the previously assumed implementation date, the first year costs will increase.