

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
(317) 232-9855

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7001
BILL NUMBER: SB 330

DATE PREPARED: Dec 30, 1999
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Long term foster parent party status.

FISCAL ANALYST: John Parkey
PHONE NUMBER: 232-9854

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill defines "long term foster parent" as a person who has been a child's foster parent for at least 12 consecutive months or 15 of the most recent 22 months. The bill provides that a long term foster parent is a party to a child in need of services proceeding. The bill requires the Office of Family and Children to notify the court when an individual becomes a party as a long term foster parent.

Effective Date: July 1, 2000.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The addition of certain foster parents as a party to child in need of services (CHINS) proceedings could lengthen the court time required to resolve these cases. The bill may require the staff and attorneys for the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to spend more hours in each proceeding; however, since the caseworkers and attorneys representing the FSSA are state employees, any additional expenses will be covered by FSSA's budget.

Any additional funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) Existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) Existing staff and resources currently being used in another program; (3) Authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) Funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) New appropriations.

As of December 1999, the Division of Family and Children within the Family and Social Services Administration had 133 vacancies. The Division reverted approximately \$44 in FY1999. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill may require courts with juvenile jurisdiction to devote more time to the hearing of CHINS cases. The Division of State Court Administration estimates that each CHINS case requires slightly less than two hours to complete. In 1998, a total of 7,236 CHINS cases were filed. The number of these cases involving long term foster parents is undetermined at this time.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Division of Family and Children, Family and Social Services Administration.

Local Agencies Affected: Courts with juvenile jurisdiction.

Information Sources: Indiana Judicial Report, Family and Social Services Administration.