

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6130**  
**BILL NUMBER: SB 28**

**NOTE PREPARED:** Jan 21, 2003  
**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Genetic Testing.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Bray  
**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** CR Adopted - 1<sup>st</sup> House

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**  **GENERAL**  
**DEDICATED**  
 **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill allows the state or political subdivision to recover costs of genetic testing from a person found to be the biological parent of a child in a paternity action. (The introduced version of this bill was approved by the Commission on Courts.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Statute currently allows the state or political subdivision to recover the cost of blood testing performed to determine paternity from a person found to be the biological father of a child in a paternity action. The bill adds the language regarding recovery of costs for genetic testing to reflect current practice.

*Background Information:* The Title IV-D Child Support Division pays for genetic testing for eligible IV-D cases; blood tests have not been used for several years. The IV-D federal reimbursement for the test cost in the Child Support Program is 90%. The test costs \$195 total for three individuals; the mother and child and the putative father. The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) reported DNA testing costs for the establishment of paternity to be \$850,743 for FFY 2002. This amount is net of any reimbursements made by men determined by the testing to be a child's father. The state share of this expense was \$85,074.

FSSA reported that if the paternity testing is done privately, the total cost is approximately \$800.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** Paternity testing is performed at the county level. FSSA reimburses

the county for the cost of testing for IV-D eligible cases. The number of total tests performed by the counties for non-IV-D child support cases is not known.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Title IV-D Child Support Agency (Division of Family and Children, FSSA).

**Local Agencies Affected:** County Prosecutors and Courts.

**Information Sources:** Susan Kilty, Legislative Liaison for the Division of Family and Children, Family and Social Services Administration, (317) 232-4451.

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