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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6130
BILL NUMBER: SB 28

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 8, 2003
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Genetic Testing.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Bray
FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Thomas

BILL STATUS: As Passed - 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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