

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 319

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Ruff

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Child support; court may order continuation for child over age 18 who is attending college

5. Summary: This legislation provides that child support may be ordered for a child attending an institution of higher learning until the child obtains an undergraduate degree, completes a vocational program, or reaches the age of 23.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2010	-	-	-
2011	\$80,923	1.0	General
	\$157,085	2.0	Federal
2012	\$75,656	1.0	General
	\$146,863	2.0	Federal
2013	\$75,656	1.0	General
	\$146,863	2.0	Federal
2014	\$75,656	1.0	General
	\$146,863	2.0	Federal
2015	\$75,656	1.0	General
	\$146,863	2.0	Federal
2016	\$75,656	1.0	General
	\$146,863	2.0	Federal

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, item 329.

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation allows the court or Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) to continue child support for children between the ages of 18 and 23 who attend college or a vocational program.

There are 88,168 cases between the ages of 18 and 23 that are still active in the child support system. Since child support currently ceases at the age of 18 or 19, virtually all of these cases represent arrearages. Note: An arrearage is defined as any unpaid child support owed by the non-custodial parent (NCP). Although some of these cases would convert to “current support plus arrearage” if the courts ordered a continuation of support under the provisions of this bill; the division does not to expect any significant change in workload or fiscal impact.

In addition to the existing cases, the division estimates that approximately 40,000 children (based on division data) between the ages of 18-23 exited the system due to case closure. It is expected that some of these cases will have a support order continued and would be added to the existing child support caseload. Assuming five percent of these children were awarded an extended support order (attended college or vocational training) by the courts or DCSE, the division would gain 2,000 additional cases. It is assumed that the ages of the 2,000 children are equally distributed; therefore, the related workload increase will also be consistent from year to year.

Based on the caseload standard of 663.4 cases per worker, it is estimated that the division would need three additional positions to handle the increased workload associated with this bill. It is assumed that the division would hire three support enforcement specialists (\$66,279) at a cost of \$238,008 the first year and \$222,519 each year thereafter. This includes annual operating costs of \$7,895 per worker for items such as supplies, telephone, rent, and personal computer costs as well as one-time cubicle costs of \$5,163 per worker in the first year. This legislation will also require minimal modifications to the existing child support information system and could be performed by existing programming staff. All costs supported with 34 percent general fund and 66 percent federal funds.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB 146.

Date: 1/21/2010

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