

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 579

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Helsel, Gordon C. Jr.

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Applications for public assistance; may be made electronically

5. Summary: The enrolled legislation provides that applications for public assistance may be made electronically.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. No Fiscal Impact

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill allows public assistance applicants the option of applying for benefits electronically instead of only in writing as is the current process. The cost of electronic filing for benefits is already an integral part of a customer portal information technology project that is currently under development at the Department of Social Services. The customer portal project is a web-based system that will enable clients to file applications for benefits or services through an online system. When implemented, the portal would allow clients to request benefits for the following programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Medicaid; and Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LiHEAP). This fiscal impact statement assumes that these programs constitute the “public assistance” programs stipulated in the legislation. The department expects the customer portal will be in place on or before, June 30, 2012. Therefore, the proposed legislation will not have fiscal impact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 2/22/12

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