

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB818

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

2. Patron Cuccinelli

3. Committee General Laws and Technology

4. Title Fee for testimonials; international adoptions.

5. Summary/Purpose: Sets the fees to be charged by the Secretary of the Commonwealth for testimonials, including seal tax, for a person submitting multiple documents for testimonial seals required by a foreign country as part of an international adoption process relating to a particular child or children.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: See line 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: This bill is likely to increase the costs and workload of the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth (SOC) while also reducing the general fund revenue received by that office.

The costs of this bill cannot be determined at this time since the frequency of certain actions is not currently tracked. For example, the SOC does not track how often a given customer orders more than 20 authentications, nor do they track the underlying reason for the customer wanting them. Also, the SOC staff does not track reasons why customers order authentications, nor the number of authentications. The office states that computer programs would have to be established to track these issues and staff would have to begin receiving such information on the purpose, quantity, and specific children involved for each authentication. It is believed that these new data collection and recording activities will reduce the speed in which orders are filled, thereby creating additional expense and likely resulting in slower processing times or a need to increase staff to maintain the current processing times.

There is data available that indicates a reduction in revenue will likely be experienced. The SOC reports that 34,864 authentications were performed in FY 2006, at \$10 each, for a total program revenue of \$348,640. This bill would eliminate the authentication charges when fees for a person submitting multiple documents for testimonial seals required by a foreign country as part of an international adoption process relating to a particular child or children when the person submitting the documents provides proof to the Secretary of having paid \$200 for testimonials relating to the specific adoption and the additional testimonials relate to the same child or children. The SOC estimates that a little over 23 percent of program

revenue was from adoptions under these conditions, resulting in a revenue reduction of roughly \$80,536.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: The Secretary of the Commonwealth.

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/15/07 / wfb

Document: G:\BOS Stuff\2007 Session\2007 Legislation\SB818.Doc

cc: Secretary of Commonwealth