

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 647

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: McEachin, A. Donald

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Child-placing agencies; prohibits DSS from contracting or funding those agencies that discriminate

5. Summary: The proposed legislation prohibits the Department of Social Services from contracting with or funding child-placing agencies that discriminate in providing placement services to children or prospective parents.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Can Not Be Determined (See item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: While the proposal will not have a direct effect on agency workload or costs; it provisions could have impact the delivery of child welfare services.

The department currently contracts with 13 child placing centers to assist in getting children in adoptive homes. Of these, six are faith-based. In addition, the department has two other contracts with faith-based organizations to assist with statewide family recruitment and post-adoption services. There is no way to determine whether the provisions of this bill would cause the faith-based organizations to end their relationship with the state or if other similar providers would be available to take over these contracts. However, should the department lose a significant portion of these contractors, there would an adverse impact on its ability to serve and place children. This in turn would require additional expenditures to offset the lack of child placing agencies as well as the potential for federal penalties.

It should be noted that the provisions of this bill would also apply to local departments of social services. However, it is assumed that as political subdivisions, local departments would abide by the requirements of this legislation if enacted. Therefore, it is not expected that this proposal would have any significant impact on the placement efforts of local departments.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/25/12

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