

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1441

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Bell, Richard P.

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Child abuse or neglect, suspected; person required to report, training program required

5. Summary: The proposed legislation requires all mandated reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect to complete a training program for the recognition and reporting of suspected child abuse or neglect within six months of employment, licensure, certification, registration, approval to serve as a mediator, or approval to serve as a court-appointed special advocate and at least once every five years thereafter. The bill also requires all employers of mandated reporters, boards that license, certify, or register mandated reporters, courts that refer cases for mediation, and courts that appoint court-appointed special advocates to provide mandated reporters with a written explanation of these requirements within one month of such persons becoming a mandated reporter. Current mandated reporters are given one year to obtain the required training.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	-	-	-
2016	\$182,030	2.0	General
2017	\$171,704	2.0	General
2018	\$171,704	2.0	General
2019	\$171,704	2.0	General
2020	\$171,704	2.0	General
2021	\$171,704	2.0	General

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposal requires the Board of Social Services to approve training programs for mandated reporters and for every mandated reporter to complete mandated reporter training within six months of beginning employment. Mandated reporters must complete a board approved training no later than July 1, 2017. In addition, the Board is required to have regulations and policies in place that govern training of mandated reporters within 280 days of passage of the bill.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provides a basic eLearning training module to local departments of social services (LDSS) and makes that module public to all mandated reporters. In addition, DSS has a more specialized training module for child care providers including child day care staff and licensed family day homes. The department also provides training for its eligibility staff and 'Educator Training' for the Department of Education. The department does not currently review and approve training curriculums that it did not develop. Based on the provisions of this bill, the department would need to hire additional staff to review and approve training programs and curriculums that are submitted to the Board. The department does not estimate that there will be any additional cost to track the mandated reporter training of its staff or local staff as this is already being done.

The department has no way of knowing how many training programs would have to be approved. The agency indicates a training coordinator would be needed to review training programs and curriculums for mandated reporters; review and approve training content and qualifications of mandated reporters; update the e-Learning module; and help develop regulations governing training of mandated reporters. Using the average salary of an eLearning content coordinator of \$63,493, the total annual salary of this additional worker would be \$88,750 after fringe benefits are added. Non-personnel services are further estimated at \$14,368 in the first year and \$9,205 each year thereafter. Therefore, total annual cost for one eLearning content coordinator is \$103,118 the first year and \$97,955 each year thereafter. In addition, the department maintains that a program support technician is needed to answer questions as it pertains to the new regulations; provide technical information; receive and process requests for board approval of training programs; and other related duties. Using the average salary of \$43,795, the total annual salary of this additional worker would be \$64,544 after fringe benefits are added. Non-personnel services are further estimated at \$14,368 in the first year and \$9,205 each year thereafter. Therefore, total annual cost for one program support technician Sr. is \$78,912 the first year and \$73,749 each year thereafter.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/29/15