

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB678

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: Mason

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Department of Social Services; central registry; electronic requests and responses.

5. Summary: Allows requests for and responses to searches of the central registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect maintained by the Department of Social Services to be sent electronically.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would allow electronic requests for searches of the central registry for founded dispositions of child abuse or neglect to be submitted to the Department of Social Services (DSS) by local departments of social services (LDSS), local school boards, and certain private schools. Electronic submissions would eliminate the mailing time and thereby reduce total wait time to receive the results of the search. This legislation will not increase the number of background searches and it will enable more simplified and efficient processing, which may allow local departments of social services and school boards to expedite filling vacant positions while ensuring that existing protections are maintained.

As a result of this legislation, DSS's information systems would need modification to allow for the receipt of electronic central registry search requests and the corresponding payments. Currently, such requests and payments are submitted by mail and an original notarization is required. The new licensing platform system could be modified to include these features and would explore allowance of an electronic notarization system as part of the modifications needed. According to DSS, these changes could be managed through a single system upgrade. The systems modifications and additional procedural changes can be absorbed within the agency's current appropriation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, local school boards

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: DSS believes that it will be unlikely that the agency will be able to update its information systems and be ready implement the electronic receipt of central registry search requests and payments by July 1, 2020, when the bill would take effect if it becomes law.