

# Legislative Fiscal Bureau

## Fiscal Note

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HF 2439 - Juvenile Justice/CHINA Items (LSB 6066 YH)  
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Fiscal Note Version - New

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### **Description**

The Bill relates to assessments of children placed within the Iowa foster care system, and use of the completed assessments within the legal process undertaken on behalf of the child.

### **Assumptions**

The following assumptions are made regarding the number of children who are placed in foster care on an annual basis, the costs of the assessment, and the utilization of the completed assessment:

1. The number of children placed in foster care annually is 9,100.
2. The court will require the assessment of the physical and mental health of 85.0% of the children placed in foster care annually.
3. The court will require the Department of Human Services to conduct the examinations in lieu of court staff.
4. A physical examination is currently provided when a child is placed in foster care and no additional costs are assumed as a result of this Bill for the physical examination.
5. The cost of each mental health examination is \$1,100 with no inflationary increase in future years.
6. Each case would require eight hours of staffing time, for 61,880 hours (9,100 cases x 85.0% x 8 hours per case).
7. Each FTE position would have approximately 1,600 hours annually that would be utilized for the additional caseload. The Bill would require 39.0 additional FTE positions.
8. A supervisor ratio of 1:12 would require three supervisor FTE positions for the additional caseload.
9. A support staff ratio of 1:3 for direct caseload activities would require 14.0 support staff FTE positions.
10. The Bill permits the Department of Human Services to contract with the University of Iowa Child Health Specialty Clinics for coordination of health services for children placed in foster care. Initial contracting with the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics is estimated at \$50,000 annually for coordination of health care services for children in foster care. Transportation costs and logistics necessary to meet the 30-day requirement within the Bill between the placement into foster care and the time of the examination are not included in the estimate.

### **Fiscal Impact**

House File 2439 would result in increased General Fund expenditures of \$7.6 million in FY 2003, and \$8.4 million in FY 2004. A detailed breakdown of the expenditures is as follows:

	(\$ in millions)					
	FY 2003			FY 2004		
	State	Federal	Total	State	Federal	Total
DHS Staffing – 56 FTEs	\$1.1 M	\$0.4 M	\$ 1.5 M	\$1.9 M	\$0.6 M	\$ 2.5 M
Mental Health Exams	6.4 M	2.1 M	8.5 M	6.4 M	2.1 M	8.5 M
University of Iowa-Contract	0.05 M	0.0 M	0.05 M	0.05 M	0.0 M	0.05 M
Total Expenditures	<u>\$7.6 M</u>	<u>\$2.5 M</u>	<u>\$10.0 M</u>	<u>\$8.4 M</u>	<u>\$2.7 M</u>	<u>\$11.0 M</u>

**Sources**

Department of Human Services  
 Judicial Branch  
 University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

/s/ Dennis C Prouty

March 12, 2002

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The fiscal note and correctional impact statement for this bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and pursuant to Section 2.56, Code of Iowa. Data used in developing this fiscal note and correctional impact statement are available from the Legislative Fiscal Bureau to members of the Legislature upon request.

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