

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note



Fiscal Note On: **SB 129** SLS 10RS 447

Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**

Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:

Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 27, 2010	8:48 AM	Author: MORRELL
Dept./Agy.: Social Services		Analyst: Patrice Thomas
Subject: Adoption of Children by an Unmarried Couple Jointly		

CHILDREN OR GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
Provides relative to the adoption of children. (gov sig)

Present law provides that a single person 18 years or older or married couples jointly may petition to adopt a child through an agency, privately, or intrafamily. Proposed law retains the present law and also authorizes an unmarried couple jointly to adopt a child. Present law requires the state registrar to make a new birth certificate of a person adopted and the names of both parties in a married couple be recorded as the parents. Proposed law retains present law and also requires the names of both parties in an unmarried couple be recorded as the parents. Present law provides that a married couple may petition for inter country adoption of a foreign orphan. Proposed law retains the present law and also authorizes an unmarried couple jointly petition for inter country adoption of a foreign orphan.

EXPENDITURES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Agy. Self-Gen.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

REVENUES	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

This legislation allows unmarried couples to adopt children. This legislation may possibly increase the number of adoptions filed in Louisiana and thereby increase the workload within the courts. However, the Legislative Fiscal Office anticipates any potential fiscal impact on courts from workload increases will be offset by an increase in court fees that may be charged to the litigants petitioning for adoption pursuant to Children's Code, Article 405. Courts have authority to set filing fees; therefore filing fees vary across courts.

The Office of Community Services (OCS) within the Department of Social Services (DSS) provides reports for the courts on adoptive placements made by all licensed adoption agencies and conducts investigations of all independent adoptions to determine the availability of the child (record checks) and the suitability of the adoptive home (home studies), reporting to the courts the findings of these investigations, and assisting the families in obtaining revised birth certificates. This legislation may result in increase adoption filings. DSS has indicated any expenditure increase can be absorbed within their existing budget.

The Office of Public Health (OPH) within the Department of Social Services issues new birth certificates for adoptive children once adoption proceedings are final. The adoptive parent or parents are charged fees for the new birth certificate. OPH does not anticipate any increase in workload associated with this legislation.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Revenues generated by the courts from fees charged to unmarried couples that file for adoptions may increase as a result of this measure. Also, revenues generated by OPH from the fee charged for the issuance of a new birth certificate may increase as a result of this measure. However, the amount of revenues that may be generated by the courts and OPH cannot be determined due to the unknown number of unmarried couples that will file for adoptions and subsequently request new birth certificates once adoptions are finalized.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change

House
 6.8(F) >= \$100,000 Annual SGF Cost
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease

Robert E. Hosse
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LFO Staff Director