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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6734

BILL NUMBER: SB 358

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 22, 2010

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Funds for Adoption Subsidies.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Broden

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: No Fiscal Impact

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Child Services (DCS) to use certain funds that become available as a result of a child with special needs becoming eligible to receive federal adoption assistance under the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 to make adoption subsidy payments for the benefit of a child with special needs under the State Adoption Subsidy Program.

The bill also provides that the DCS is not required to use the funds to make adoption subsidy payments for the benefit of a child with special needs if there is no child with special needs eligible for an adoption subsidy under the State Adoption Subsidy Program.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Currently, the State Adoption Subsidy Program (SAS) adoption assistance account is not funded and has approximately 450 adoptees on the SAS waiting list.

This bill specifies that funds that have been appropriated, allocated, contributed, or paid to the adoption assistance account are designated for making an adoption subsidy payment in the SAS. Under the bill, any funds that were designated for a child (1) with special needs, (2) who becomes eligible for the federal IV-E special needs adoption subsidy, and (3) was on the state waiting list for the SAS, are required to be reallocated to another adoptee on the SAS waiting list.

Children can only be considered eligible for the federal IV-E adoption subsidy payment before they are adopted. After an adoption has been finalized, a child who otherwise would have been IV-E eligible cannot

be considered IV-E eligible.

Since there are no funds budgeted for the SAS adoption assistance account, and adopted children cannot become IV-E eligible after they have been adopted, this bill currently has no fiscal impact.

Background Information: The SAS provides adoption subsidies from state funds to parents who adopt special needs children. This program is separate from the federal IV-E special needs adoption subsidy program and not substitutable. Families can be considered eligible and receive payments from both the federal IV-E special needs adoption subsidy program and the SAS.

State adoption subsidy agreements are negotiated between parents and DCS to provide a daily per diem amount that is based on the needs of the child. The maximum daily per diem amount is \$25.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Child Services.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Brady Brookes, DCS.

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Brumbach, 232-9559.