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May, 1988

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Mary Van Nimwegen

H HESS

4-28-88

8:30 a.m.

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 508

For an Act Entitled: "An Act relating to review panels for children in foster care; and amending the Child in Need of Aid Rules."

This bill proposes the creation of a three member panel (in each of the four judicial districts) to review the placement plan and actual placement of all children in need of aid under AS 47.10.080(c) (1) or (c) (3).

This bill duplicates the review panels required under Public Law 96-272, the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980. This federal law protects children from entering the foster care system until reasonable efforts have been made to maintain them in their own homes or, if placed outside the home, that efforts are made to return them to their families or other permanent placement as soon as possible.

Public Law 96-272 requires that the Division of Family and Youth Services conduct panel reviews on all children in out-of-home-placement every six months. In addition to the Division social worker responsible for the case, the following persons are provided notice of the review in order that they may participate: (1) the child's natural parents; (2) the child's foster parents; (3) the child's guardian ad litem; and (4) the tribal representative, if the child is Native and the tribe has requested notice or has formally entered the case through the legal system.

The time frames in which the six month reviews must be held under P.L. 96-272 are rigid and are calculated from the date the child is placed out-of-home rather than from the date of entry of an order as specified in this bill. Therefore, in order for the Department to maintain compliance with both P.L. 96-272 and State law (should HB 508 pass) duplicate reviews would be necessary on a number of children within any six month time frame. Since federal funds which support State child welfare services are available through participation in the federal program, the Division would maintain compliance with P.L. 96-272, as well as comply with provisions of HB 508.

**POSITION PAPER/Department of Health & Social Services**

Position Paper  
House Bill No. 508  
Page 1.1

Department Position

The department opposes HB 508 because it duplicates current placement review effort. The department believes that current placement reviews conducted under P.L. 96-272 are sufficient to assure judicious use of out-of-home placements and that additional reviews are unnecessary at this time.

RECOMMENDED: Russell Webb for  
Yvonne M. Chase, Director  
Division of Family  
and Youth Services

DATE: 4-25-88

APPROVED: Myra M. Munson  
Myra M. Munson, Commissioner  
Department of Health  
and Social Services

DATE: April 26, 1988

FISCAL NOTE

REQUEST:

Revision Date: 2/15/88  
Title: Review Panels for Children  
in Foster Care  
Sponsor: Collins and Phillips  
Requestor: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Affected: Health & Social Services  
BRU: Social Services

Components: Southcentral Region, Northern  
Region, Southeastern Region

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93
PERSONAL SERVICES		454.3	472.5	491.4	511.1	531.5
TRAVEL		18.0	18.7	19.4	20.2	21.0
CONTRACTUAL		49.5	51.5	53.6	55.7	57.9
SUPPLIES		6.6	6.9	7.2	7.5	7.8
EQUIPMENT		22.0				
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		550.4	549.6	571.6	594.5	618.2

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE						
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		550.4	549.6	571.6	594.5	618.2
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		550.4	549.6	571.6	594.5	618.2

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		11	11	11	11	11
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS : (Attach a separate page if necessary)

See attached

Prepared by: *Russell W. Johnson*  
Yvonne M. Chase, Director Phone: 465-3170  
Division: Family and Youth Services Date: 4/26/88

Approved by Commissioner: *Marya M. Munson* Date: 4/26/88  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

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# CONTINUATION of FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

For Bill/Resolution No. 508

## IV. ANALYSIS

### A. Assumptions

This fiscal note assumes full funding of the Governor's FY 89 budget for the Division of Family and Youth Services and GICCY recommendation #1.

The Division estimates that there will be a minimum of 841 children in foster care in FY 89. The additional review requirements will result in the following additional professional and support staff time per case to arrange for the parents and child's availability, organize and write materials and court time. The estimated 841 children will need an average of two additional hearings, each of which are anticipated to take a minimum of 1 day of social worker time. 841 x 2 hearings x 7.5 hours = 12,615 hours. 12,615 hours divided by 1350 working hours in a year translates to 9 additional line social workers. Support clerical staff will be needed to complete the hearing materials.

Because of the implied augmentation of the level and the quality of services as a result of review board expectations regarding placement decisions, there would be a need for significant increases in resources. The exact need cannot be quantified, however increased responsibilities attendant to this bill would necessitate even lower caseloads than the National Child Welfare League standard of 25 cases per worker.

### B. Program Summary

The new positions required by this legislation will be as follows:

4 - Social Worker III Anchorage	1 - Social Worker III Ketchikan
3 - Social Worker III Fairbanks	1 - Clerk Typist III Anchorage
1 - Social Worker III Juneau	1 - Clerk Typist III Fairbanks

### C. Computations

Personal Services - 9 Social Worker III's	398.1
2 Clerk Typist III's	56.2
Travel	18.0
Contractual*	49.5
Supplies	6.6
Equipment - first year only	22.0
	<u>550.4</u>

### D. Economic Impact

There will be no impact on the State economy.

### E. Impact on Local Government

There will be no impact on local governments.

\* In successive years, space will be budgeted by Department of Administration.

\*\*Successive years calculated at 4% increase for inflation.