

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 8, 2015

TO: Honorable Joan Huffman, Chair, Senate Committee on State Affairs

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB820 by Rodríguez (Relating to child custody evaluations and adoption evaluations conducted and testimony provided in certain suits affecting the parent-child relationship; providing penalties; creating an offense; authorizing fees.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill amends Chapter 107 of the Family Code to establish certain qualifications for evaluators in child custody and adoption evaluations, as well as requirements for the evaluations. The bill also limits testimony relating to the conservatorship of or access to a child at issue in a suit to the individual who conducted the child custody evaluation.

The bill requires the Board of Examiners of Psychologists (the Board) to adopt rules which specify that any complaint relating to the outcome of certain evaluations must be reported to the court instead of the Board. The bill also states that this provision does not affect the authority of the board to enforce compliance with state law and administrative rules with regard to license holders.

The Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) anticipates no fiscal impact due to the agency's exemption from the minimum qualifications provisions for child custody and adoption evaluators in the bill. The Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Medical Board anticipate no significant fiscal impact as a result of this bill. This analysis assumes that administrative penalties collected by the Board would not be impacted by the bill. The Office of Court Administration anticipates no significant fiscal impact to the state court system resulting from this bill.

The bill would go into effect on September 1, 2015.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to local courts is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 520 Board of Examiners of Psychologists, 530 Family and Protective Services, Department of, 503 Texas Medical Board, 529 Health and Human Services Commission

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