



BDR 1-818 AB 210

NON-EXECUTIVE AGENCY FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: March 11, 2015

Agency Submitting: Eighth Judicial District Court

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2014-15	Fiscal Year 2015-16	Fiscal Year 2016-17	Effect on Future Biennia
(Expense)		\$1,165,193	\$1,140,324	
Total	0	\$1,165,193	\$1,140,324	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

Passage of AB 210 would require the Eighth Judicial District Court to establish a program of mandatory mediation for cases that involve the property rights or financial interests of the parties in a family law dispute. The most cost effective way to meet this requirement is for the court to expand the services offered through the Family Mediation Center (FMC). Currently, FMC only provides mediation services for child custody or visitation disputes.

In 2014, there were 5,337 complaints for divorce filed in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Of those cases, default was entered against the defendant in 2,117 cases. Based on those numbers, and for the purpose of this fiscal note, it is estimated that AB 210 will result in approximately 3,200 additional referrals to FMC per year for the first two years after enactment.

To accommodate the increased referrals created by AB 210, FMC will need to employ an additional 8 full-time Family Mediation Specialists, 2 full-time Legal Office Specialists and 1 full-time Legal Office Specialist Supervisor.

With salaries set at mid-range, the salaries and benefits for the new employees will total \$1,031,324.00 per year; the yearly cost for services and supplies will total \$22,000.00; the initial capital cost for office equipment totals \$24,869.00.

Because the current facilities at FMC cannot accommodate the additional employees, AB 210 will create additional costs to either expand the FMC facility or to locate some mediators and staff outside of the Family Court and Services Campus. The cost to expand FMC has not been estimated. The cost to lease appropriate off-campus office space is estimated at \$87,000.00 per year. For the purpose of this fiscal note, it is assumed that leasing off-campus space will be the most cost effective way to house the additional employees. That estimated cost has been included in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016, Fiscal Year 2016-2017, and Future Biennia totals.

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