BDR 13-661
AB 446

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: April 9, 2023

Agency Submitting: Second Judicial District Court

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2022-23	Fiscal Year 2023-24	Fiscal Year 2024-25	Effect on Future Biennia
Form Revision (Expense)	$6,500			
.5 FTE Case Compliance Specialist (Expense)	$37,558	$50,078	$50,078	$100,155
.5 FTE Courtroom Clerk (Expense)	$34,600	$46,134	$46,134	$92,267
Employee Benefits (Expense)	$21,166	$24,138	$24,138	$42,333
New Employee Expenses (Desk, Computer, Licensure) (Expense)	$12,000			
Attorney Costs (Expense)	$149,850	$209,790	$220,280	$474,152
Total	$261,674	$330,140	$340,630	$708,907

Explanation (Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

Several bill provisions alter the factors that must be considered by a court before guardianship of a minor can be granted. It is estimated that 160 employee hours will be required to amend required court forms to meet new requirements at a cost of approximately $6,500. In addition, it is anticipated these changes will significantly increase the review and required hearing time associated with minor guardianship cases. Additional time required based on these increased requirements will require the addition of a half time case compliance specialist and a half time courtroom clerk.

Section 13 would require a Court to appoint an attorney under certain circumstances. Based on a review of minor guardianship petitions filed in 2022, the provisions of this bill would have increased the percentage of SJDC minor guardianship cases qualifying for attorney appointment from 19% to 53%. Assuming an hourly rate of $150/hour, additional attorney costs would be approximately $199,800/year based on current rates and caseload. The fiscal impact of this item is calculated assuming a 5% increase in caseload each year.

Name /s/ Alicia L Lerud

Title Court Administrator and Clerk of Court