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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Duran DATE TYPED 3/2/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Waive Marriage Fees for Premarital Education SB 1050

ANALYST Hadwiger

APPROPRIATION (in \$000s)

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	NFI				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
	(\$30.0)	(\$30.0)	Recurring	Children's Trust Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 1050 would exempt couples who have completed at least 12 hours of premarital education from paying a marriage license and marriage certificate fee. The bill specifies documentation needed to qualify for the exemption as well as that the education must be provided by a member of the clergy, licensed psychiatrist, licensed psychologist, licensed marriage and family therapist, licensed independent social worker or licensed professional mental health counselor and must include use of a premarital inventory and teaching of communication and conflict management skills.

Significant Issues

Senate Bill 1050 creates an incentive for couples to get premarital counseling. This counseling may be beneficial in sustaining marriages, improving long-term relationships, and reducing the rate of divorce.

The Children, Youth and Families Department noted that this bill would disrupt a major funding source for the Children's Trust Fund. In current law, \$15 of every \$25 marriage license is directed to the Children's Trust Fund for programs that prevent child abuse and neglect. Approximately 45% of the revenues for the Children's Trust Fund are generated from marriage license fees. The redirection of this revenue will severely impair the ability of the CTF program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

If 2,000 couples qualified for this exemption annually, there would be a \$30,000 decrease in revenues to the Children's Trust Fund. CYFD projects that up to 45 percent of the revenues to this fund could be diverted if all revenues from marriage licenses and certificates were waived. Additionally, counties would lose their share of revenues from these licenses and certificates.

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