

1 SENATE BILL NO. 93

2 INTRODUCED BY BROOKE

3 BY REQUEST OF THE JOINT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

4
5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO ASSIST THE
6 LEGISLATURE IN OBTAINING AND ASSESSING EVALUATION DATA FOR HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAMS
7 SEEKING CONTINUED OR NEW LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS; REQUIRING THAT CERTAIN FISCAL
8 NOTES INCLUDE THE COST OF CONDUCTING AN OUTCOME EVALUATION; AMENDING SECTION
9 5-4-205, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."
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11 WHEREAS, standard and accurate program information and evaluation are essential to strategic
12 planning for services to Montana's children and families; and

13 WHEREAS, program evaluation should be a component of program design; and

14 WHEREAS, limited resources and competing needs compel the Legislature to ensure that money
15 appropriated for human services programs affecting Montana's children and families be used as effectively
16 as possible to achieve desired outcomes.
17

18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
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20 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Short title.** [Sections 1 through 3] may be cited as the "Legislative
21 Program Evaluation Guidelines Act".
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23 NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Purpose.** The purpose of [sections 1 through 3] is to establish a basic
24 legislative philosophy to guide legislators when making policy and funding decisions affecting current and
25 proposed human services programs. It is not the intent of [sections 1 through 3] to mandate that program
26 evaluation be conducted or to require that a specific methodology be employed to evaluate human services
27 programs. The intent of [sections 1 through 3] is to enable legislative decisionmakers to obtain and assess
28 program information as systematically as possible so that resources can be strategically targeted and so
29 that program effectiveness in achieving desired outcomes can be accurately measured.
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1 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Guiding principles for designing program evaluation.** (1) In recognition
 2 of the need for policymakers to have consistent program information and evaluation data to assist the
 3 decisionmaking process in the strategic allocation of resources, the legislature encourages requests for
 4 appropriations for programs specifically designed to serve Montana's children and families to include but
 5 not be limited to the following basic components:

- 6 (a) a clear definition of the problem or the current condition to be addressed;
 7 (b) a profile of the characteristics of the target population to be served;
 8 (c) an outline of the behaviors, risk factors, or conditions to be affected;
 9 (d) the activities, services, or methods to be employed to affect the behaviors, risk factors, or
 10 conditions targeted and the extent to which these activities, services, or methods reflect best practices;
 11 (e) an outline of the outcomes expected as a result of the activities, services, or methods to be
 12 employed; and
 13 (f) the evaluation strategy to be used in the program's design to measure outcomes and determine
 14 the extent to which the program achieved its objectives. Evaluation costs should be considered part of
 15 program costs and should be identified in the fiscal note as provided in 5-4-205.

16 (2) The legislature encourages the presentation of information listed in subsection (1) to be made
 17 in a brief written format, if possible.

18 (3) The information listed in subsection (1) is a guideline only and should not be construed as
 19 mandatory.

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21 **Section 4.** Section 5-4-205, MCA, is amended to read:

22 "**5-4-205. Contents of notes.** (1) Fiscal notes ~~shall~~ must, ~~where~~ when possible, show in dollar
 23 amounts the estimated increase or decrease in ~~revenues~~ revenue or expenditures, costs ~~which~~ that may
 24 be absorbed without additional funds, and long-range financial implications. ~~No~~ A comment or opinion
 25 relative to merits of the bill ~~shall~~ may not be included; ~~however, technical~~ Technical or mechanical defects
 26 in the bill may be noted.

27 (2) (a) Fiscal notes for bills amending or creating human services programs designed to serve
 28 children and families must include the estimated cost of an evaluation to assess program outcomes.

29 (b) Cost estimates may be based on the evaluation guidelines established in [section 3]."

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1 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 through 3] are intended to be
2 codified as an integral part of Title 5, and the provisions of Title 5 apply to [sections 1 through 3].

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4 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 1997.

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-END-

STATE OF MONTANA - FISCAL NOTE

Fiscal Note for SB0093, as introduced

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

An act establishing principles to assist the legislature in obtaining and assessing evaluation data for human services programs seeking continued or new legislative appropriations; and requiring that certain fiscal notes include the cost of conducting an outcome evaluation.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. Effective date of the bill will be July 1, 1997.
2. The bill requests, but does not mandate, program evaluations on all programs and appropriation requests for programs affecting children and families.
3. Program evaluation is already a component of many of the programs administered by the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).
4. Additional evaluations following the guidelines of section 3 will be performed to the extent allowable within existing resources.
5. Grant writers estimate the cost of program evaluation at approximately 4.5% of program costs.
6. This bill will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Revenue (DoR).

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Dave Lewis 1-20-97
DAVE LEWIS, BUDGET DIRECTOR DATE
Office of Budget and Program Planning

Vivian Brooke 1/20/97
VIVIAN BROOKE, PRIMARY SPONSOR DATE

Fiscal Note for SB0093, as introduced

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