STATE OF MICHIGAN

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

ENROLLED BILL ANALYSIS

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 4457

TOPIC: Adoptive Parent Registry Fee Elimination

SPONSOR: Representative Jim Runestad

CO-SPONSORS: Representatives Lauwers, Tedder, Crawford, Victory, Johnson, Price, McCready, Hooker, Hughes, Howrylak, Farrington, Gamrat, Kelly, Canfield, Wittenberg, Hovey-Wright, Dianda, Irwin, Robinson, Plawecki, Byrd, Banks, Gay-Dagnogo, Greig, Schor, Yanez, Chirkun, Singh, Durhal, Moss, Santana, Heise, Rendon, McBroom, Chang, Glardon, Bumstead, Leutheuser, Kosowski, Vaupel, Bizon, Derek Miller, Chatfield, Garcia

COMMITTEE: House Families, Children and Seniors
Senate Families, Seniors and Human Services

ANALYSIS DONE BY: Angela Madden (517) 515-8575

DATE OF COMPLETED ANALYSIS: June 18, 2015

REVIEWED BY: SD DA

SHORT SUMMARY/HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL

The bill would amend MCL 722.985 by striking the requirement for the Department to charge a prospective adoptive parent a fee to be included in a registry of adoptive homes. The bill removes a required initial fee of $100.00 and an annual renewal fee of $50.00 per year.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION

No Position

PROBLEM/BACKGROUND

Previously, in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) did have a fee register database for families approved, studied and wanting to adopt voluntarily released infants. The creation of this database was for families interested in adopting newborn infants and could be access upon request by attorneys and birth parents. Only a handful of families registered with this database and they were only interested in adopting newborn infants through direct consent adoption. There has never been a fee charged for prospective parents to register with MARE if they were interested in adopting through the child welfare system.

SUMMARY OF ARGUMENTS

Pro: Imposing a fee creates a disincentive for approved adoptive families, who are interested in adopting children from the foster care system, to be registered on MARE. The fee also creates a potential delay in identifying adoptive families for youth who are waiting for a forever family.

Con:

FINAL PASSAGE VOTE

House: 110 – 0 (with immediate effect)

Senate: 37 – 0 (with immediate effect)

FISCAL/ECONOMIC IMPACT

Are there revenue or budgetary implications in the bill to the –

(a) Department

Budgetary: **None – this fee has not been charged to date.**

Revenue:

Comments: **The Department, through the MARE contract, maintains a database of approved adoptive families throughout the state who are interested in adopting children through the child welfare system. There would be no change to the contract.**

(b) State

Budgetary:

Revenue:

Comments:

(c) Local Government

Comments:

OTHER STATE DEPARTMENTS:

None.

ANY OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES IMPACT

None.