



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

Olds Plaza Building, 10th Floor
Lansing, Michigan 48909
Phone: 517/373-6486

ADOPTION SUBSIDY PAMPHLET

**House Bill 4614 as introduced
First Analysis (5-12-93)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Tracey Yokich
Committee: Judiciary**

THE APPARENT PROBLEM:

Sometimes adoptive parents of children with special needs are not told of the availability of support subsidies, which can be a critical oversight for the parents and the child, as eligibility for a support subsidy must be determined before an adoption petition is filed. (For a medical subsidy, eligibility demands that the medical problem or its cause existed before the adoption petition was filed or the subsidy was sought, whichever occurred first.) To ensure that adoptive parents have the chance to apply for support subsidies for which their adoptive children may qualify, legislation has been proposed to require the distribution of a pamphlet describing the subsidy program.

THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:

The bill would amend the Social Welfare Act to require the Department of Social Services (DSS) to prepare and distribute to child placing agencies a pamphlet describing the adoption subsidy program. The DSS and child placing agencies would provide a copy of the pamphlet to each prospective adoptive parent before placing a child with that parent.

MCL 400.115h

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

With regard to an identical bill (House Bill 5763) last session, the Department of Social Services said that the bill would have no significant fiscal implications. (5-19-92)

ARGUMENTS:

For:

By requiring that prospective adoptive parents be informed of the adoption subsidy program in a timely manner, the bill would help to ensure that otherwise eligible families were not denied subsidies because they had failed to apply in time. The cost to the state of providing the pamphlet required by

the bill would be negligible, as the Department of Social Services already publishes such a brochure.

POSITIONS:

Legislation such as the bill was recommended by the House Judiciary Committee's Special Subcommittee on Adoption in its report issued March 19, 1992.

The Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies supports the bill. (5-11-93)

Right to Life of Michigan supports the bill. (5-11-93)

The Department of Social Services does not have a formal position at this time. (5-11-93)