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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HOUSE BILL 4634 SUBSTITUTE H-4

Sponsor: Rep. Andrew C. Richner

House Committee: Civil Law and the Judiciary

FLOOR ANALYSIS - 2/25/02

Analyst(s): Myron Freeman

SUMMARY

HB 4634 amends the adoption code section of "Probate Code of 1939" which governs the rights of a punitive father as they relate to his non-custodial child.

HB 4634 essentially strengthens the putative father's position when the child's mother places the child up for adoption. The bill adds a rebuttable presumption to the law which states that when a child is put up for adoption, the best interest of the child is served by awarding custody to the putative father, providing he is the biological father. The bill also adds language which clarifies under what conditions the rights of the punitive father cannot be terminated.

HB 4634 creates no significant fiscal impact.