

*Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note***NO FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 09-0592**Date:** February 25, 2009**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Levy; Rep. McGihon**Bill Status:** House Judiciary**Fiscal Analyst:** Harry Zeid (303-866-4753)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE REPEAL AND REENACTMENT OF THE "UNIFORM PARENTAGE ACT".**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, recommended by the Colorado Commission on Uniform State Laws, repeals and reenacts the "Uniform Parentage Act", which is part of the "Colorado Children's Code." The bill updates Colorado law on establishing legal parentage of children to reflect modern issues such as assisted reproduction and genetic testing. The bill also provides further clarification as to the parent-child relationship, acknowledgment of paternity, statute of limitations to determine paternity, and guidance for the courts.

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2010, unless a referendum petition is filed. The bill applies to:

- gestational agreements entered into on or after the bill's effective date;
- civil actions related to parent-child relationships initiated on or after the effective date of the bill; and
- offenses committed on or after the effective date of the bill.

Assessment

The bill is assessed as having no fiscal impact to the state or to local governments. The bill requires the Division of Child Support Enforcement in the Department of Human Services to make some internal changes to forms and procedure manuals. These changes can be absorbed within existing resources.

Under the bill, a male foster youth who could be the biological father of a child must register with the Registrar of Vital Statistics in the Department of Public Health and Environment. Further, a foster youth may be required to submit to genetic testing. The potential cost for these items on county departments of social services is assumed to be minimal, but has not been estimated.

Finally, the bill states that the court shall appoint a guardian ad litem to represent a minor or incapacitated child if the child is a party or the court finds that the interests of the child are not adequately represented. The extent to which this will require additional resources is not known.

Departments Contacted

Human Services Judicial