

---

Senate Fiscal Agency  
P. O. Box 30036  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

**SFA**



**BILL ANALYSIS**

Telephone: (517) 373-5383  
Fax: (517) 373-1986  
TDD: (517) 373-0543

---

Senate Bill 880 (as introduced 2-12-98)  
Sponsor: Senator Joel D. Gougeon  
Committee: Families, Mental Health and Human Services

Date Completed: 2-18-98

**CONTENT**

The bill would repeal a section of the Revised Judicature Act that requires a court, when a child under the age of 10 is produced as a witness, to determine through public or private questioning whether the child has sufficient intelligence and sense of obligation to tell the truth. This section also provides that the child's testimony may be given on a promise to tell the truth instead of upon oath or affirmation, and is to be given such credit as it appears to deserve.

MCL 600.2163

Legislative Analyst: S. Lowe

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill would have an indeterminate fiscal impact. The effect the bill could have on the number of trials and convictions is speculative.

Fiscal Analyst: B. Bowerman

S9798\S880SA

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.