

FISCAL ESTIMATE

ORIGINAL UPDATED)

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No.
LRB-2068/2 **AB 266**

DOA-2048 (R10/92

CORRECTED SUPPLEMENTAL

Amendment No. If Applicable

Subject: Requiring school boards to install filtering software on computers connected to the Internet

Fiscal Effect

State: No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation

- Increase Existing Appropriation Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Appropriation Decrease Existing Revenues
- Create New Appropriation

- Increase Costs-May be possible to Absorb
Within Agency's Budget Yes No
- Decrease Costs

Local: No local government costs

- 1. Increase Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
- 2. Decrease Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory

- 3. Increase Revenues
 - Permissive Mandatory
- 4. Decrease Revenues
 - Permissive Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:
- Towns Villages Cities
 - Counties Others _____
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEG-S

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires school boards to install filtering software on computers owned by the school board and connected to the Internet to block access to material that the school board determines to be inappropriate for pupils. The bill also provides that an educational agency is not eligible for assistance under the telecommunication access program administered by the technology for educational achievement in Wisconsin board (TEACH board) unless the agency installs software on its computers that blocks internet access to material that the agency determines is inappropriate for minors.

A 1998 DPI survey revealed that 95 percent of Wisconsin public schools had some kind of access to the Internet. Monthly costs to local districts to install Internet filtering through WiscNet range from \$30 for 1 to 99 workstations to \$500 for 1,000 to 2,000 workstations. Yearly costs would therefore range from \$360 (\$30 X 12 months) to \$6,000 (\$500 X 12 months). Larger school districts may wish to obtain a dedicated filtering server for the entire organization; the cost for this server is \$13,000 per year.

Based on the above information, local annual costs to districts for Internet filtering software will range from \$0 for a district that has no Internet access to \$13,000 for districts that obtain a dedicated filtering server.

Other local costs associated with this bill are related to the school board's determination of appropriate material. Some vendors use a staff of reviewers to evaluate web pages as part of the filtering service. If such a service is provided, there would be no additional cost to a school district. If this service is not provided, the local school board would be responsible for related costs. These costs are indeterminable.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

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The amount of funding that local school districts would lose from the loss of access to TEACH funds is also indeterminable.

There is no fiscal effect on the department as a result of this bill.