

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 9/10/2003

LRB Number 03-3125/1	Introduction Number AB-503	Estimate Type Original
Subject University of Wisconsin-Parkside charter school		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, school boards may enter into contracts with individuals, groups, businesses, or governmental bodies to establish charter schools, which operate with fewer constraints than traditional public schools. Current law also permits the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, the Milwaukee Area Technical College, and the city of Milwaukee to operate charter schools (independent charter schools) directly or to contract for the operation of charter schools.

For the University of Wisconsin-Parkside charter school, current law limits the enrollment to 400 pupils. This bill increases the limit to 480 pupils beginning in the 2004-05 school year.

State Fiscal Effect

By increasing by 80 the number of pupils eligible to enroll in the UW-Parkside 2r charter school and receiving state aid for their attendance, this bill would increase the state's costs of funding this school. The specific increase in the state's funding to the charter school would be fully offset by a reduction in general school aids available to all 426 school districts.

Per Student 2r Charter School Cost

2004-05 2r charter school state aid amount \$7,111
Statewide local property taxpayers share \$7,111

Total maximum effect of AB 503 on charter school state aid cost: $\$7,111 \times 80 = \$568,880$

*Note: based on current enrollment trends, it is not expected that the UW-Parkside charter school will exceed 400 pupils in the 2003-05 biennium.

Local Fiscal Effect

Under current law, payments to 2r charter schools are fully offset by a proportionate reduction in the general equalization aids of all 426 public school districts. By increasing the number of pupils eligible to enroll in the UW-Parkside 2r charter school, each school district's general equalization aid would be proportionally reduced by the additional amount the 2r charter school appropriation is increased. As calculated above, this totals \$568,880 in 2004-05 for the 80 additional pupils.

Under revenue limits, school districts may levy property taxes to make up for the amount of equalization aid lost due to these increased 2r charter school payments. Given the multitude of factors involved in computing general equalization aid, it is not possible to predict the impact of any additional local property tax for any particular school district. Therefore, the local fiscal effect of this bill upon individual property taxpayers is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications