

Fiscal Estimate - 2003 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 03-3379/1 **Introduction Number AB-664**

Subject

Combine public health departments in Winnebago County

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
- Increase Existing Revenues
- Decrease Existing Revenues
- Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes No
- Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
- Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
- 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
 - Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DHFS 3/1/2004

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, in counties except Milwaukee, a local health department (LHD) may be a city health department that was established before January 1, 1994, a county health department, or a city-county health department. In Racine County, a local health department may also be a village or town health department or may be a multiple municipal local health department that is established by a local governmental entity (village, town or city) in conjunction with another local governmental entity. In Milwaukee County, a local health department may be a city or village health department.

Under this bill, the governing body of a city or village in Winnebago County, acting with another governing body of a city or village within the county, may establish a multiple municipal local health department in a manner similar to the establishment of multiple municipal local health departments in Racine County. Local governments could combine with an existing LHD or form new local health departments.

Under current law, a local public health department must meet certain statutory requirements in order to become a statutorily recognized local health department. A local health department can be designated as a Level 1, Level 2, or Level 3 local health department, depending on the level of services offered. The minimum level of services required under statute is a Level 1 LHD.

It is assumed that any new statutorily recognized local health departments in Winnebago County would need to meet at least the minimum Level 1 requirements. To qualify at this level, a local health department would have to provide the following services: communicable disease surveillance, prevention, and control; a generalized public health nursing program; health promotion; disease prevention; and human health hazard prevention and control. An LHD would also be required to collect and analyze public health data, develop public health policies and procedures for the community, submit data to the Department upon request, and possibly act as an agent of the Department.

To establish a Level 1 local health department, it would be necessary for the local government to hire, at a minimum, a qualified health officer and a public health nurse, and appoint a local board of health. It is estimated that the cost of establishing a new LHD would range between \$70,000 and \$120,000, depending on the number of staff hired, the programs offered, and other factors. If the local government established its LHD in conjunction with an existing LHD, costs are likely to be less. It is not possible to estimate the cost of this bill to local governments because it is not known how many governing bodies in Winnebago County may decide to form local health departments.

Additional LHDs would also result in an increased workload for the Department, as more contract management and data analysis will be required. It is not possible to estimate the extent of this increased workload. However, if existing LHDs joined to form a new, multiple municipal LHD, there could be cost savings at the local level, as staff functions are consolidated. The Department's costs for grants management may decrease for newly created multiple municipal LHDs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications