

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 6/10/2003

LRB Number	03-0776/1	Introduction Number	SB-162	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Youth options program; limit number of courses and payment					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Currently, a pupil in the 11th or 12th grade may attend, under the Youth Options Program, an institution of higher education for one or more courses. The school board of the district in which the pupil is enrolled is responsible for paying the cost of tuition, fees, and books for the pupil under certain circumstances. A pupil is limited to taking no more than 15 credits in any semester.

The bill eliminates the 15-credit limitation, and limits to two the number of courses that a pupil may take under the Youth Options Program. Further, the bill provides that if a pupil receives a grade of "D" in a course at an institution of higher education or technical college for which the school board has made payment, the pupil is to reimburse the school board for half of the amount that it paid on the pupil's behalf. If a pupil receives a failing grade in a course at an institution of higher education or technical college for which the school board has made payment, the pupil is to reimburse the school board the entire amount paid on the pupil's behalf. If a pupil fails to complete a course at an institution of higher education or technical college for which the school board has made payment, the pupil is to reimburse the school board the entire amount paid on the pupil's behalf, unless the incompleteness is the result of a death in the pupil's family or a family emergency.

The bill would also require the department to modify PI 40 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. Cost of doing so would be absorbed by the department.

While the Department of Public Instruction is starting to collect some data from school boards regarding pupils who are enrolled in the Youth Options Program, a sufficient data base does not exist indicating how many pupils are enrolled statewide, for how many courses, and what their grades and course completion rates are. Even this database will not provide all of the information necessary to determine the fiscal effect of this bill. Therefore, it is not possible to calculate savings for school districts.

While it is not possible to calculate the local fiscal impact of the proposed bill on school districts, it can be argued the bill would have no fiscal effect on local property tax levies or the state's current two-thirds funding commitment. Under current law, youth options programs are one of many activities funded by school districts under their state imposed revenue limits. Further, since nearly all school districts use their maximum allowable revenue limit authority each year, it could be assumed that any cost savings realized by a district due to the elimination of youth options would very likely be replaced by other district costs under existing revenue limits.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications