

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 2/6/2004

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|--------|---------------|----------|
| LRB Number | 03-3665/1 | Introduction Number | SB-319 | Estimate Type | Original |
| Subject | | | | | |
| Manufacturing competitiveness | | | | | |

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill provides \$9,500,000 of general purpose revenue to fund a Manufacturing Competitiveness Grant Program to be administered by a Manufacturing Competitiveness Board (board) created under the bill.

Under the bill, the board may make grants to the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board, and certain tax-exempt non-profits corporations headquartered in Wisconsin that assist manufacturers and are not chambers of commerce or trade associations. A grant may be used to fund, at least in part, any project that assists a manufacturer in accomplishing improved productivity, reduced costs of operation, the use of new technology in the manufacturing process, the improvement of the skills of its workforce, the creation of new products, sales in new markets, or any other goal approved by the board that benefits manufacturing in this state. The Department of Commerce would be required to develop rule for the Manufacturing Competitiveness Board's administration of the grant program.

The WTCS Board anticipates applying for grants to be made available from the Manufacturing Competitiveness Grant Program. System Office staff would be responsible for administration of the grant and any sub-grants that may be made by the WTCS Board to technical college districts to carry out the purposes of the funding described in the bill. System Office costs of administering these program grants are indeterminate.

The bill also provides one-time funding of \$500,000 GPR to the WTCS Board to contract with and award grants to the tax-exempt corporations described above for the purpose of conducting surveys to determine what manufacturers need in order to improve productivity and stay competitive and to provide technical assistance to manufacturers. The costs of administering this pass-through funding is indeterminate. No funds, however, are appropriated to cover the cost of administering this appropriation and the associated contracts.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Indeterminate