## Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

| Original Dpdated   | Corrected Supplemental  |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| LRB Number <b>05-4175/1</b>  | Introduction Number AB-867  |  |  |
| <b>Description</b> Various changes in the unemployment insurance law, authorized positions for the department of justice, making appropriations, and providing penalties |   |  |  |
| Fiscal Effect  |   |  |  |
| Appropriations Rev   | ease Existing renues  Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget renues  Yes  Decrease Costs |  |  |
| Permissive Mandatory Perr<br>2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Costs Permissive Mandatory Perr   | 5.Types of Local Government Units Affected Towns Village Cities Counties Others School WTCS Districts               |  |  |
| Fund Sources Affected  Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations  GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS  |   |  |  |
| Agency/Prepared By   | Authorized Signature Date   |  |  |
| SPD/ Mike Tobin (608) 266-8259   | Krista Ginger (608) 264-8572 12/2/2005  |  |  |

## Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 12/9/2005

| LRB Number <b>05-4175/1</b>  | Introduction Number AB-867 | Estimate Type Original |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Description</b> Various changes in the unemployment insurance law, authorized positions for the department of justice, making appropriations, and providing penalties |                            |                        |

## **Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation in criminal cases and other specified proceedings in which the loss of personal liberty or parental rights may occur. For adult clients, the SPD must complete a financial eligibility evaluation before appointing an attorney. SPD services are constitutionally required because in the case types handled by SPD, a defendant without the financial means to hire an attorney has the right to have an attorney appointed. Therefore, any bill that would increase the number of cases handled by SPD would increase SPD costs.

This bill does not create any new criminal offenses and mainly addresses the civil-law aspects of unemployment compensation. However, there is a provision that would add a partial Department of Justice (DOJ) prosecutor position to specialize in cases related to violations in this area. SPD cannot determine whether this specialized position would increase the number of criminal cases initiated for alleged unemployment compensation violations, but any such increase could increase SPD costs.

The counties may have increased costs related to the proposed prosecutor position, if this specialized position results in an increase in criminal charges. The potential costs would include costs for appointment of counsel (in cases in which defendants exceed the SPD financial guidelines, yet lack sufficient funds to hire an attorney). County costs would also include costs for incarceration of defendants in county jails.

SPD cannot accurately estimate the number of additional cases that could result from the proposed partial prosecutorial position. If the bill passes, a retrospective estimate could be determined by comparing the number of prosecutions before and after the responsibility for prosecution shifts to DOJ.

SPD cannot accurately

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**