

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ALTC 6/3/2005

LRB Number	05-2588/1	Introduction Number	SB-224	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Permit persons to make written requests for medication for purpose of ending their lives					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Ombudsman staff of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care would be required by this bill to witness the signature of residents of certain long-term care facilities who wish to execute a request for medication under the terms of the bill. Ombudsmen would also be required to act as advocates for the individual making the request. If the individual resides in a nursing home or CBRF, advocacy services of the Ombudsman would be available under any circumstance on request by the resident or any other person on behalf of the resident. Ombudsman services are delivered only with the consent of the resident or a legal representative. It is impossible to determine whether or not a given resident who is contemplating making use of the option presented by the bill would, under other circumstances, have requested the services of an Ombudsman.

This bill will add an indeterminate number of cases to the Ombudsmen's case load. While it may be assumed that not a great many persons will take advantage of the option presented by this bill, it is likely that a certain number will. Each occasion will require an Ombudsman to expend an indefinite amount of time, the cost of which may be calculated at approximately \$25.20 / hour (including wages and benefits). Additionally the total cost must include the associated travel costs which will vary dependant on the distance from the Ombudsman's office to the location of the individual who is requesting advocacy assistance.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Impossible to predict at this time.