

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
CTS 2/7/2006

LRB Number 05-1731/5	Introduction Number SB-530	Estimate Type Original
Description Drunken driving and creating a penalty		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill creates a pilot program in Winnebago County that would allow persons charged with 2nd and 3rd offense Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) to be sentenced to a period of probation and a reduced jail term if the person agreed to receive substance abuse treatment.

Although this bill's analysis indicates this is a pilot program, the bill does not have a concluding date for the program, nor have a requirement for evaluating the impact and results of the program. Therefore, this estimate assumes this will be an ongoing program in Winnebago County.

The bill does not require the circuit courts in Winnebago County to maintain a different schedule of hearings or court appearances for cases that fall under this program than for other OWI offenses. If the circuit court, however, treats these cases as they would a drug court case, then it is likely to involve more proceedings before the court in order to monitor the progress of the defendant.

It is unknown how many cases will be subject to the terms of this bill. Additional proceedings require additional judge, court reporter, and court staff time. These costs are borne by both the state and the county. An accurate estimate of the additional costs is impossible with the data available, but it is likely to have a minor impact on the overall workload of the circuit courts of Winnebago County.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications