

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
SPD 2/7/2007

LRB Number 07-1071/1	Introduction Number SB-027	Estimate Type Original
Description Releasing persons arrested for certain offenses related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal proceedings. The SPD plays a major role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation that creates a new criminal offense or expands the definition of an existing criminal offense has the potential to increase SPD costs.

This bill neither creates a new criminal offense, nor increases the penalties following conviction. The bill changes procedures regarding release of OWI suspects and seizure of the vehicles that they were allegedly operating. The procedural changes could lead to some increase in attorney workload relative to these issues, but it is not likely to be a substantial increase.

Counties and municipalities may also incur additional costs associated with longer incarceration of defendants after arrest and with the administrative issues associated with investigating vehicle ownership and impounding vehicles.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications