

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 09-0166/2	Introduction Number SB-226
Description Emergency management, succession of public offices, liability and licensure of emergency volunteers, disaster relief, ratification of the pest control compact, transportation and disposal of animal carcasses, the plant industry, computation of school days, variance for hospital requirements, public works mutual assistance, emergencies related to computer or telecommunication systems, and providing penalties	
Fiscal Effect	
State:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
Local:	
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected	
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature
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Date	
7/28/2009	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 7/28/2009

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill recodifies current statutes which relate to emergency management. Among other changes, the bill creates a separate chapter for legislation regarding emergency volunteer health care practitioners and adds new categories of health care workers who would qualify as emergency health care practitioners.

Under current law, certain health care providers licensed by Wisconsin who provide services on a voluntary basis during a declared state of emergency are considered to be state agents of the Department for the provision of these services. If a civil action arises out of an act committed by the provider during the lawful course of that person's duties, the state provides legal counsel and any judgments against the provider are paid by the state and capped at \$250,000. These providers are also considered to be employees of the state for purposes of worker compensation.

This bill adds emergency medical technicians, first responders, funeral directors, and veterinary technicians to the list of those who can qualify as emergency volunteer health care providers and, who, as a result, acquire the status of state agents of DHS when they provide services under the emergency volunteer program. The bill also allows providers who are licensed or certified by another state or territory to become an emergency health care provider in Wisconsin.

Liability claims against the state are paid from funds administered by the Department of Administration. The Department pays premiums to DOA for liability insurance. The Department paid \$271,975 for liability insurance and \$105,066 for medical malpractice insurance in SFY 09. Workers compensation premiums for all employees were \$4.4 million for the same period. If these volunteer emergency health care providers were added to the Department for liability purposes, and claims were made against them, the Department's liability premiums would also increase. However, the amount by which the premiums will increase as a result of the bill cannot be estimated.

SB 226 also requires the Department to establish an electronic registration system for providers who are willing to volunteer in an emergency. The system must be able to verify electronically a volunteer's credentials. The Department currently operates an electronic registration system which meets these requirements. There will be no additional cost to the Department as a result of this provision.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications