

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 09-1014/1	Introduction Number SB-249
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Description
 Popular election of technical college district boards, providing an exemption from and extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

Agency/Prepared By WTCS/ Conor Smyth (608) 266-2991	Authorized Signature Morna Foy (608) 266-2449	Date 8/27/2009
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 8/27/2009

LRB Number	09-1014/1	Introduction Number	SB-249	Estimate Type	Original
Description Popular election of technical college district boards, providing an exemption from and extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would require the election of 144 WTCS district board members--9 board members in each of the 16 existing technical college districts--who have historically been appointed. This fiscal estimate assumes that unless otherwise specified, the State Elections Board will bear the full cost of administering these elections.

The bill, however, will also result in increased administrative costs for WTCS districts and the WTC System Office. For example, according to the Legislative Technology Services Bureau, to accurately identify boundaries for 9 voting districts within each existing WTCS district, each of the 16 technical college districts would likely be required to purchase computer software that combines mapping capabilities with U.S. Census population data. Such software has a current estimated cost of at least \$3,000 per copy. Districts would likely also incur consulting and training costs related to use of the software.

The WTC System Office would likely also be required to purchase the computer software to facilitate the WTCS Board's review and approval of the districts' plans, as required under the bill. In addition, because the bill requires the WTCS Board to promulgate the final voting district boundaries as administrative rule, the WTC System Office would incur costs associated with developing and implementing a new rule. Legal costs may also be incurred if voting district boundaries were disputed.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Under the bill, WTCS districts would be required to review and adjust voting district boundaries every 10 years in response to the U.S. decennial census. This would likely require districts and the WTC System Office to purchase software upgrades and related training and consulting services.

Moreover, given the geographic size and significant responsibility of elected representation of technical college districts, it may become necessary to provide compensation to district board members in the future. Currently, board members are reimbursed only for their direct expenses and do not receive per diem or other compensation.

As a point of comparison, in 2007, the most recent year for which data were readily available, compensation for K-12 school board members in Wisconsin varied widely. While 18 of the 426 K-12 districts in Wisconsin did not provide any compensation to school board members, the structure and amount of compensation for board members in the remaining 408 districts varied widely. Districts may pay all board members a flat amount annually, different amounts dependent on position (president, vice-president, clerk, etc.), an amount per meeting, or an amount per meeting in addition to annual compensation. For example, the Kenosha Unified School District paid all school board members \$4,500 annually, while the Menomonee Falls School District paid its president \$5,000 annually and remaining board members \$4,500. The Seymour School District paid board members between \$4,200 and \$5,000 annually depending on position, and also paid \$20 per meeting beyond regular board meetings. Some smaller districts paid considerably less, such as \$900 per year (Cedarburg) or \$35 per meeting (Richland).

Because WTCS districts are considerably larger than most K-12 districts, in terms of population, geographic area, and operating budgets, WTCS board members would likely represent a greater number of constituents and be required to undertake more significant travel and time to attend board meetings. As a result, it could be assumed that any proposed compensation for WTCS district board members would be higher than that for K-12 school board members.

An additional consideration is that because WTCS districts consist of school districts, WTCS district boundaries are not consistent with county, municipal, aldermanic, or other boundaries typical of other voting districts. Currently, s. 5.15, Wis. Stats., requires that municipal wards be kept whole, which may conflict with

the requirements of this bill.