

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOR 5/18/2011

LRB Number	11-1430/1	Introduction Number	AB-0138	Estimate Type	Original
Description County and municipal expenditures for emergency services					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

CURRENT LAW

Under a provision of the 2009 Act 28 (the 2009-11 biennial budget), the amount every town, village, city, and county spends each year for emergency services (as defined by the Department of Revenue (DOR) and funded from county and municipal aid may not be less than the amount spent for emergency services and funded from county and municipal aid in 2009. In order to enforce this requirement, each town, village, city, and county must annually file a report on which its emergency services spending for the current and prior year is reported.

The DOR has defined emergency services to include, at a minimum, salary and fringe benefits for first responder, police, fire, and EMT/ambulance services personnel. Expenditures for other services that the town, village, city, or county classifies as emergency services – such as 911 call centers, emergency service managers, emergency support services, jails, hazardous material response team, and the like – may be included, but if included they must be consistently included every year.

The DOR may adjust reported expenditures so that one-time expenditures and capital expenditures are excluded. In addition, a town, village, city, or county may decrease the amount spent on emergency services and funded from county and municipal aid below the amount so spent and funded in 2009 if the decrease is a result of operating more efficiently, as approved by the DOR based on documentation provided by the town, village, city, or county.

If a town, village, city, or county fails to maintain its spending for emergency spending at the required level, the DOR may reduce the entity's payments under sec. 79.035 (county and municipal aid) and sec. 79.043 (municipal aid). The reduction will generally equal the product of (a) the percentage of the entity's general revenue that is generated by the above two aid payments times (b) shortfall in spending on emergency spending.

PROPOSED LAW

Under the bill, the requirement that every town, village, city, and county maintain its spending for emergency services funded from county and municipal aid at no less than the amount expended in 2009 and funded from county and municipal aid would be repealed.

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

Local governments currently report their emergency spending to the DOR on a schedule included in the annual financial report form filed with DOR. Although the elimination of the annual report to the DOR on emergency services spending would reduce administrative duties, it is expected that the saved time – perhaps a few hours per year -- will be used for other purposes, leading to no decrease in personnel costs.

The bill would also reduce administrative costs of the DOR by a minimal amount.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill would allow towns, villages, cities, and counties to reduce their spending on emergency services and funded from county and municipal aid to less than the level of such spending in 2009 without incurring a penalty. The DOR does not have information to permit a reasonable estimate of the reductions in spending that the bill could engender.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications