

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 1/5/2012

LRB Number	11-2127/1	Introduction Number	AB-0400	Estimate Type	Original
Description State agency fiscal and operations reports and quarterly hearings of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires each executive and judicial branch state agency to submit a report on its fiscal condition and operations and appear before the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC) once each year. Each agency will be given at least 15 business days' notice of its scheduled appearance before the committee.

This report must include agency balance sheets, an accounting of all agency expenditures exceeding \$100, the number of persons employed by the agency, aggregate payroll data, a list of all programs administered by the agency, as well as an explanation of each program and an identification of the statutory provision requiring the program. In addition, each report must include data relating to employee salary growth and benefit costs. The report is in addition to any other reports that state agencies are currently required to prepare by law.

At this time, the Department of Administration is constructing the Wisconsin transparency website, which will collect all purchasing data throughout the state for state agencies and would be in a standard format for all agencies. Assuming the website is operational at the time DHS must report to JLCA, the Department could provide an accounting of expenditures to JLAC at no additional cost to the agency. If the website is not available, or, if JLAC requires a different format, preparation of the information would increase Department workload and costs, which DHS could not absorb.

Currently, the Department prepares an annual balance sheet according to Legislative Audit Bureau guidelines. Preparation of the balance sheet is workload intensive, requiring accounting of Department revenue balances and assets. If JLAC requires that the balance sheet be provided for a time period other than a state fiscal year (such as for a certain quarter), or in a different format than is available to DHS, then DHS would need to prepare a special compilation of these documents by hand, which will take an unknown number of hours and FTE to complete. The Department would not be able to absorb this cost.

Costs to compile employee, payroll, and employee salary growth and benefit costs data can be absorbed by the Department as well as the program information described in the bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications