

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 9/28/2011

LRB Number 11-2789/1	Introduction Number SB-177	Estimate Type Original
Description Jurisdiction in matters relating to domestic abuse restraining orders and injunctions, child abuse restraining orders and injunctions, and harassment restraining orders and injunctions		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill grants Wisconsin courts subject matter and personal jurisdiction over certain alleged abuse or harassment matters and over certain persons regardless of whether the matters happened within Wisconsin or whether the persons reside in Wisconsin. The bill specifies conditions that must be met for the court to have jurisdiction.

This bill may increase the number of abuse or harassment actions that are filed in the circuit courts because it expands the jurisdiction of the court to cover actions not currently allowed in circuit court. No data is available on how many such actions might be filed. Additional proceedings require additional judge, court reporter, and court staff time. These costs are borne by both the state and the county.

To estimate the impact of this proposal on the workload of the court system, we have relied on the Judicial Needs Assessment 2006, submitted to the Director of State Courts by the National Center for State Courts. For this study, all Wisconsin judges and court commissioners participated in a time study designed to measure the time spent processing different types of cases from initial filing to final resolution. For purposes of the study, abuse or harassment matters were included in a broader category that included other types of civil matters. According to the time study, this broad category of civil matters involved an average of 62.2 minutes of judicial time for each case.

An accurate estimate of the court system's additional costs is impossible with the data available.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications