

Fiscal Estimate - 2015 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 15-3720/2	Introduction Number AB-0547	
Description Trespass and damage to property owned or used by an energy provider and providing a criminal penalty		
Fiscal Effect		
State:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input 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	
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected		
<input type="checkbox"/> Towns	<input type="checkbox"/> Village	<input type="checkbox"/> Cities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties	<input type="checkbox"/> Others	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts	<input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected		
<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		
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations		
Agency/Prepared By SPD/ Anna Oehler (608) 267-0311	Authorized Signature Adam Plotkin (608) 264-8572	Date 11/27/2015

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 11/27/2015

LRB Number	15-3720/2	Introduction Number	AB-0547	Estimate Type	Original
Description Trespass and damage to property owned or used by an energy provider and providing a criminal penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal and certain commitment proceedings. The SPD plays a major role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation has the potential to increase SPD costs if it creates a new criminal offense, expands the definition of an existing criminal offense, or increases the penalties for an existing offense.

Under the bill, entering a property that is part of an energy plant or electric generation, distribution, or transmission system or part of a natural gas distribution system without lawful authority or the consent of the energy provider that owns, operates, or leases the property is also a Class H felony.

It is possible that given the new criminal charges, the SPD will see an increase in the number of cases in which it provides representation. We are unable, however, to quantify the number of cases that might occur due to the provisions in the bill. The SPD's average cost to provide representation with a private bar attorney in a felony case was \$551.02 in fiscal year 2014. Because of the annual caseloads for staff attorney positions specified for budgeting purposes under § 977.08(5), Stats., it would be more cost effective to add staff attorney positions if a significant number of SPD cases resulted from this provision of the bill.

Because probation or prison could be ordered upon conviction for the proposed crime, this change could indirectly lead to additional cases in which the Department of Corrections (DOC) would seek to revoke probation or extended supervision. The SPD provides representation in proceedings commenced by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to revoke supervision. Thus, the bill could indirectly increase the number of cases in which the SPD appoints attorneys in revocation proceedings. The average cost during fiscal year 2014 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$294.04.

This bill could also have a fiscal impact on counties. There are some defendants who, despite exceeding the SPD's statutory financial guidelines, are constitutionally eligible for appointment of counsel because it would be a substantial hardship for them to retain an attorney. The court is required to appoint counsel at county expense for these defendants. The counties could also incur additional costs associated with incarceration of defendants, both pending trial and after sentencing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications