



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 1/22/2016

LRB Number	15-2988/1	Introduction Number	AB-0662	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Fees charged for certain coroner or medical examiner services					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

#### State Impact

This Bill directs Wisconsin counties to set fees for services rendered by medical examiners within the limits previously established for coroners, expands a moratorium to cover fees charged to any person by coroners and medical examiners, and makes the provision of physician medical examiner services through intergovernmental cooperation agreement exempt from the moratorium.

Wisconsin's Funeral and Cemetery Assistance Program (WFCAP) reimburses the costs of funeral homes and cemeteries for eligible services they provide to deceased individuals who were receiving medical assistance or certain other public assistance benefits. The State will pay up to \$1,000 to cemeteries as long as the total expenses do not exceed \$3,500 and up to \$1,500 to funeral homes if the funeral expenses do not exceed \$4,500. Since medical examiner costs are an eligible expense for coverage under the Department's funeral subsidy, this bill could impact costs for this program.

With regard to the first component of this Bill, the direction to limit the setting of fees for services rendered by medical examiners, the State could experience some savings. Since medical examiner costs are eligible for the funeral assistance subsidy, funeral homes will include those costs when submitting a WFCAP subsidy request for an eligible individual. Limits on medical examiner fees and yearly increases may result in some savings associated with reductions in reimbursement requests and authorizations. Although this provision may provide some savings, it is likely to be minimal since most requests by funeral homes already are at or exceed the maximum allowable reimbursement amount of \$1,500. In SFY 2014, 86 percent of funeral homes made reimbursement requests at or above the \$1,500 maximum. Also, medical examiner fees are a small cost.

The second component of this Bill would have no effect on WFCAP.

The third component of this Bill, which exempts counties from the moratorium on fee increases if they begin to provide physician medical examiner services as part of intergovernmental cooperation agreements and if the county population is less than 300,000, may increase or decrease costs to WFCAP. On the one hand, lifting of fee limits may increase costs. On the other hand, the cooperation agreement agreements might lead to lower costs which could also result in lower fees. Given the small size of these fees and the high percentage of claims that are paid at the maximum, either way this provision would have minimal impact.

#### Local Government Impact

With regard to local governments' human service agencies, this Bill would have no impact. However, this Bill may impact revenues for other county agencies.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications