

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 1/27/2016

LRB Number	15-4181/1	Introduction Number	AB-0723	Estimate Type	Original
Description Regulating the production and use of photo identification cards by local units of government					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The Division of Family and Economic Security (DFES), within the Department of Children and Families, is responsible for determining the eligibility of program applicants as required in Chapter 49 of the Wisconsin statutes, administrative rule, and DCF policy. Among these eligibility requirements, applicants must provide verification of identity, birth date, Wisconsin residency, U.S. Citizenship or qualifying non-citizen status for all DFES-administered public assistance benefit programs, such as Wisconsin Works (W-2).

DFES programs are administered through contractors, grantees or local governments (agencies). Under current DFES policy, a list of the allowable types of verification documentation includes photo identification of the applicant that may be used by the agency to determine public assistance benefit eligibility. "Locally issued identification cards" are not explicitly included in this list. However, the list of suggested sources does allow the agencies to accept "any other reliable documentation" that verifies identity, birth date, or Wisconsin residency. Agencies can determine what sources of photo identification may qualify as "any other reliable documentation." For example, DFES program policy allows agencies to accept employee identification cards as a possible source to verify applicant identity.

Under this bill, DCF will be prohibited from using locally issued identification cards as verification of identity, birth date, or Wisconsin residency to determine non-financial eligibility requirements for public assistance benefits. Photo identifications issued by cities and villages or towns and counties would no longer be considered "other reliable documentation" as allowed in current DFES program policy.

Finally, not many, if any, cities, towns, villages, or counties provide the type of identification the bill refers to, though the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County recently introduced initiatives to develop a "locally issued ID" available to residents.

In regards to programs operated by the Division of Early Childhood Education, Wisconsin Shares does not currently accept identification issued by a village, town, city, or county as sufficient documentation of identity, and thus would not alter their operations to conform to this bill.

The fiscal impact of this bill would depend on the number of applicants who rely on locally issued identification to determine eligibility for public assistance programs and who reapply after a denial based on the locally issued identification. It is assumed that there would not be a large number of these applicants, and, therefore, any fiscal impact would be minimal.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications