

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 3/16/2015

LRB Number	15-1503/1	Introduction Number	SB-028	Estimate Type	Original
Description Permitting certain individuals to make requests for medication for the purpose of ending their lives and providing penalties					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill permits an individual who is of sound mind, is not incapacitated, is at least 18 years of age, is a resident of Wisconsin, and has a terminal disease to request voluntarily medication from his or her attending physician for the purpose of ending the individual's life in a humane and dignified manner.

The bill also provides three penalties:

(1) Any person who willfully conceals, cancels, defaces, obliterates, or damages the request for medication of another without the requester's consent may be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned for not more than 30 days, or both.

(2) Any person who, with the intent to cause a requester to take medication that is prescribed under a request for medication contrary to the wishes of the requester, illegally falsifies or forges the request for medication of another or conceals a revocation under s. 156.17 shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(3) Any responsible person who, with the intent to cause a requester to take medication that is prescribed under a request for medication contrary to the wishes of the requester, conceals personal knowledge of a revocation under s. 156.17 shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or, except for a health care facility, imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

The Department is unable to determine the fiscal impact of the bill as it cannot predict the number of people that will be sentenced and the sentencing practices of judges under the new law.

The average FY14 annual cost for an inmate in a DOC institution is approximately \$32,800. However, when there is excess capacity in DOC facilities, the incremental costs (i.e. food, health care and clothing) of housing a small number of inmates is approximately \$5,700 based on FY14 costs. Should the Department use contract beds, the rate would be approximately \$18,800 annually per person.

If there is a large increase in the number of offenders placed on probation or extended supervision, additional community corrections funding and/or positions may be necessary to handle the population.

The local fiscal impact of the bill cannot be predicted because the Department of Corrections cannot predict the number of people that will be sentenced and the sentencing practices of judges under the new law. Costs at the local level may increase if offenders are placed in jail rather than prison. The average FY14 annual cost to jail an inmate was \$18,800.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications