Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

| ☑ Original ☐ Updated | ☐ Corrected [| Supplemental | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| LRB Number 17-1344/1 | Introduction Number | SB-043 | | | |
| Description material misstatements on applications for certain | ain credentials and providing a crimi | inal penalty | | | |
| Fiscal Effect | | | | | |
| Appropriations Rev | | Personant . | | | |
| Permissive Mandatory Peri | rease Revenue | nt Units Village Cities es Others WTCS | | | |
| Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations | | | | | |
| ☑ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS | | | | | |
| Agency/Prepared By | Authorized Signature | Date | | | |
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 3/4/2017

| LRB Number 17-1344/1 | Introduction Number | SB-043 | Estimate Type | Original | |
|---|---------------------|--------|---------------|----------|--|
| Description | | | | | |
| material misstatements on applications for certain credentials 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 critical 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, any person who intentionally makes a material misstatement or omission or who submits falsified documentation in an application for a credential or for the renewal of a credential issued by the Department of Safety and Professional Services or an attached credentialing board is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor, for which the penalty is a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed nine months, or both.

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 misdemeanor case was \$242.06 in fiscal year 2016. 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 increase the number of cases in which the SPD appoints attorneys in revocation proceedings. The average cost during fiscal year 2016 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$286.98.

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