Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session							
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LRB Number 17-1979/1		Introduction	Introduction Number SB-072				
Description committing a fifth or sixth offense related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated and providing a criminal penalty							
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Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations Image: Second Sec							
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 4/12/2017

LRB Number 17-1979/1	Introduction Number SB-072	Estimate Type Original				
Description committing a fifth or sixth offense related to operating a vehicle while intoxicated 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 current law, it is an OWI offense to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of an intoxicant, a controlled substance, a controlled substance analog, or any combination thereof, under the influence of any substance to a degree that renders him or her incapable of safely driving, with a detectable amount of a restricted controlled substance in his or her blood, or with a prohibited alcohol concentration. Under current law, a person who commits a fifth or sixth OWI offense is guilty of a Class G felony and may be fined up to \$25,000, imprisoned for up to ten years, or both. Under current law, a person who commits a fifth or sixth OWI offense is a fifth or at least six months.

Under this bill, for a fifth or sixth OWI offense, a sentencing court is required to impose a sentence that orders the person to spend at least 18 months confined in prison.

Because the bill imposes mandatory minimum penalties for an already existing crime, it is unlikely that the bill will result in significant additional cost to the SPD. There may be a slight cost increase as extended threat of incarceration may cause an increase in the number of cases resolved by trial rather than plea.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications