

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 9/10/2019

LRB Number	19-1862/1	Introduction Number	AB-0371	Estimate Type	Original
Description uniform course numbering and the transfer of course credits among technical colleges and University of Wisconsin System schools, and eliminating certain restrictions on the respective educational roles of the University of Wisconsin System and the Technical College System					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB-371 requires the Board of Regents for the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board to implement within five years a uniform course numbering and credit transfer system, in which courses with the same uniform course number are automatically transferable among UWS and WTCS institutions.

WTCS has prepared a preliminary fiscal estimate related to the WTCS IT costs of developing and maintaining a uniform course numbering system over the initial five-year period. It assumes that each college's existing IT systems can "handle" any needed changes, and no college would have to replace an entire IT system.

WTCS surveyed the IT directors from all of its 16 colleges, who provided preliminary estimates as to costs of the modifications which they would be required to make to their own IT systems given the establishment of a uniform course numbering and credit transfer system.

A conservative estimate of the one-time costs consists of two parts: cost to WTCS System office (i.e., state costs) is estimated at \$900,000. The costs to the 16 WTCS colleges (i.e., local costs) are estimated at \$11.4 million.

In addition to the IT costs estimates above, there will be other significant foundational personnel costs related to the development of this system such as:

- Identifying equivalent courses that would share the uniform course number among all WTCS and UWS institutions.
- Creating the alpha and/or numeric system that would generate the uniform course number and identify a course as equivalent and transferable.
- Adding the new uniform course number to WTCS colleges' web sites, printed course catalogs and marketing materials.
- Revising WTCS articulation and transfer agreements between WTCS colleges and private in-state as well as public and private out-of-state institutions of higher education.

The bill also repeals Wis. Stat. 36.31(1) which required the Board of Regents to approve WTCS's collegiate transfer offerings beyond those offered in 1972-73 and the WTCS Board to approve UWS semi-professional or skilled-trade occupational offerings beyond those available in 1972-73. WTCS does not anticipate any additional costs related to this provision that could not be absorbed within the existing WTCS budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Once the uniform course numbering and credit transfer system is launched, it will require additional dedicated WTCS System office staff to work with WTCS colleges as well as the UWS institutions as part of the ongoing evaluation of new courses for transferability and to maintain the currency of the system. New courses would need

to be identified, evaluated and assigned an existing or new uniform course number before being added to the system. Conversely, discontinued courses must be removed. In addition, the numbering of non-transferable courses would need to be coordinated with the transfer system to avoid institutions inadvertently assigning them an existing uniform course number and creating confusion.

Similarly, there would also be long-term, ongoing costs to the WTCS colleges as they work with WTCS System office and UWS institutions to identify and evaluate new courses for equivalency and transferability, and maintain the currency of the system.

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2019 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect): State one-time costs: \$900,000 + local one-time costs: \$11.4 million = \$12.3 million total one-time costs.			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$100,000		\$
(FTE Position Changes)			
State Operations - Other Costs			
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$100,000		\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR	100,000		
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, ets.)			
	Increased Rev		Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$		\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
TOTAL State Revenues	\$		\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
	<u>State</u>		<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$100,000		\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$		\$

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Date

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