Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

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LRE	3 Number	19-4089/1		Introduction	on Number	SB-388				
Description state debt guaranties; delegations by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System; organizations affiliated with the UW System; and standards of conduct for certain UW System employees										
Fiscal Effect										
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DOA/ Josh Bachert (608) 261-2292 Colle			een Holtan (608) 266-1359			12/4/2019				

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOA 12/4/2019

LRB Number	19-4089/1	Introduction Number	SB-388	Estimate Type	Original					
Description										
state debt guaranties: delegations by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System: organizations										

state debt guaranties; delegations by the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System; organizations affiliated with the UW System; and standards of conduct for certain UW System employees

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2019 Senate Bill 388 proposes to prohibit the state from guarantying public debt, which includes the voluntary, unconditional undertaking of another's debts. The bill also proposed several changes regarding the University of Wisconsin (UW) System.

The bill proposes changes to the delegation authority of the Board of Regents by requiring the Board of Regents to make all limited appointments and prohibiting delegation to any president, chancellor, or administrative officer of a UW institution, except for the appointments that the president of the UW System is currently statutorily required to make. The bill also prohibits the Board of Regents to delegate governance powers or duties to the president or a chancellor or administrative officer of an institution, but permits the delegation of certain powers and authorities to a committee of the Board of Regents, subject to the restrictions created by the bill.

The proposed prohibition includes the delegation of the authority to enter into a guaranty, financial agreement, or obligation involving an UW-affiliated organization. A UW-affiliated organization is defined as an entity as 1) "is legally distinct from a UW institution", 2) "is organized and operated for the benefit or in support of a UW institution", and 3) "is either permitted to use a UW institution's name, or is provided used of a UW institution's space, resources, or employees." The UW Hospitals and Clinics Authority is exempt from this definition. Also excluded is any state agency that is created by the state's constitution or any law or is entitled to expend money appropriated by law.

The bill also places certain requirements on the employment of a UW employee and a UW-affiliated employee unless otherwise approved by the Board of Regents, including adherence the state code of ethics.

The Department of Administration (Department), as a state agency, is excluded from the definition of a UW-affiliated organization. As such, the Department does not anticipate any direct fiscal impact related to the proposed changes to the new prohibitions regarding delegations and would not be directly impacted due to any potential changes in the financial transactions or agreements that the Board of Regents would decide to not enter into.

The Department's Division of Executive Budget and Finance has regular communications on debt-related matters of the State, including with and not limited to, the UW System. It is not expected that these communications, or financial services provided by the Department to the UW System, will be impacted by the proposed changes in legislation. Therefore, the Department does not anticipate a fiscal impact resulting from the proposed legislation.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications