

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No. <b>SB 17 (99-1590/3)</b>
Amendment No. if Applicable

**FISCAL ESTIMATE**  
DOA-2048 N(R10/94)

- ORIGINAL       UPDATED  
 CORRECTED       SUPPLEMENTAL

**Subject**  
**Covenant Marriages**

**Fiscal Effect**

**State:**  No State Fiscal Effect

Check columns below only if bill makes a direct appropriation or affects a sum sufficient appropriation.

Increase Costs - May be possible to Absorb Within Agency's Budget  Yes  No

- Increase Existing Appropriation       Increase Existing Revenues  
 Decrease Existing Appropriation       Decrease Existing Revenues  
 Create New Appropriation

Decrease Costs

**Local:**  No local government costs

1.  Increase Costs  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
2.  Decrease Costs  
 Permissive       Mandatory

3.  Increase Revenues  
 Permissive       Mandatory  
4.  Decrease Revenues  
 Permissive       Mandatory

5. Types of Local Governmental Units Affected:  
 Towns       Villages       Cities  
 Counties       Others \_\_\_\_\_  
 School Districts       WTCS Districts

**Fund Sources Affected**

- GPR  FED  PRO  PRS  SEG  SEG-S

**Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

This bill establishes covenant marriage as an option for men and women who are marrying or who are already married. If parties to a covenant marriage decide to divorce or separate, certain conditions must be met that are different from what is required of individuals who seek divorce or separation under current law.

If this legislation passes, the Department will have to develop and distribute material related to the new provision, revise and distribute marriage application forms and licenses, make changes to the computer system that tracks marriages, revise statistical forms and reports and train all of Wisconsin's Register of Deeds and County Clerks. One-time costs for this include \$5,800 for pamphlet printing and mailing costs, \$2,800 for marriage license printing and mailing costs and \$500 for training and travel costs. Current staff cannot absorb this workload and 1.0 project position, a Research Analyst 4, would be required for one year, for a cost of \$42,900 GPR. Total one-time costs will be \$52,000 GPR.

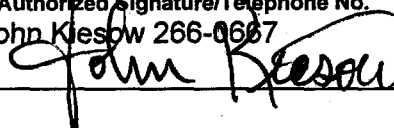
There are approximately 40,000 marriages annually in Wisconsin. It is possible that 10% of these marriages are covenant marriages. The Department estimates that it will have to print and mail out approximately 10,000 forms (declarations and pamphlets) annually, 4,000 declarations and 4,000 pamphlets for those who will decide to engage in covenant marriages and an additional 2,000 forms for those who express interest in covenant marriage but who decide not to go through with it. The cost of printing these forms is estimated at \$5,000 annually. It is assumed that most of the forms will be distributed through local Register of Deeds and County Clerk offices rather than mailed individually. Mailing costs would be approximately \$800 annually. An additional .5 permanent FTE (Program Assistant 1) will be required to handle the increased workload resulting from these changes to marriage licenses in Wisconsin. The cost of the staff person will be \$15,800 GPR annually. Total ongoing costs of this bill will be \$21,600 annually.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

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(DHFS)

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Date  
March 1, 1999

This provision will also affect local Register of Deeds and County Clerk offices. These offices will be required to give out the declaration and pamphlet forms, file the forms and make sure that any marriage that occurs under this provision takes place within the specified period of time. This will result in an additional workload to these local offices but it is not possible to estimate the extent of the additional workload and its fiscal effect on local agencies.

**FISCAL ESTIMATE WORKSHEET**

**1999 Session**

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect  
DOA-2047 (R10/94)

ORIGINAL     UPDATED  
 CORRECTED      
SUPPLEMENTAL

LRB or Bill No./Adm. Rule No. SB 17	Amendment No.
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Subject  
**Covenant Marriage**

**I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):**  
\$52,000 GPR

II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized Fiscal impact on State funds from:	
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>		
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$13,300	\$ -
(FTE Position Changes)	(.5 FTE)	(- FTE)
State Operations - Other Costs	\$8,300	-
Local Assistance		-
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		-
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>	<b>\$21,600</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>	<b>Increased Costs</b>	<b>Decreased Costs</b>
GPR	\$21,600	\$ -
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
<b>III. State Revenues -</b> Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)	<b>Increased Rev.</b>	<b>Decreased Rev.</b>
GPR Taxes	\$	\$ -
GPR Earned		-
FED		-
PRO/PRS		-
SEG/SEG-S		-
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT**

	<u>STATE</u>	<u>LOCAL</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$21,600	\$See Fiscal Note
NET CHANGE IN REVENUES	\$	\$

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