

Fiscal Estimate - 2001 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 01-3423/1	Introduction Number AB-738	
Subject Placement of sex offenders		
Fiscal Effect		
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Towns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Village <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 20.410 (1)		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 1/29/02

LRB Number	01-3423/1	Introduction Number	AB-738	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Placement of sex offenders					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill places additional restrictions upon persons convicted of a serious sex offense. Under this bill, any child sex offender placed on parole, extended supervision or probation, is prohibited from residing within 1,000 feet of any state, county, city, village, or town park; a multiunit public housing project; a public swimming pool; a child care facility; a youth center; a community center; or any private or public school.

Departmental Impact:

During calendar year 2000, 725 serious child sex offenders as defined in this bill were either placed on parole (359) or probation (366). It is assumed that 725 is the average number of serious sex offenders placed in the community each year and that the average supervision time for each offender is 5 years. Thus, for each of the first five years of any housing program, total offender populations will grow by 725 inmates per year, capping out at 3,625 offenders in year 5. During year 6, 725 additional offenders will be supervised but the first 725 to enter the program will drop off supervision roles. Note that it is also assumed that serious child sex offenders receiving probation will no longer be allowed to live in their current residence due to the 1,000 foot rule, whether owned or rented.

The attached maps demonstrate that Department staff will find it extremely difficult to find housing for offenders in several counties with large urban areas (Brown, Racine, Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Dane) once the 1,000-foot rule is implemented. In addition, communities have increasingly placed pressure on landlords and homeowners to refuse housing to sex offenders. It is also assumed that each of Wisconsin's 72 counties will have at least a handful of serious sex offenders released into the community or placed on probation every year. Due to these pressures, it is assumed that the Department will no longer be able to locate housing for serious sex offenders except in rural areas of every county.

Very few employment opportunities are available in rural areas of Wisconsin. Additionally, there is no public transportation so offenders will need Department assistance in acquiring both a job and transportation to and from any work opportunities and general purposes such as grocery shopping and medical appointments. Probation and Parole Agents' travel time for home visits could also increase under the provisions of this bill.

2001 Wisconsin Act 16 directs the Department under s. 301.03 (19), Wis. Stats. "...to minimize to the greatest extent possible, the residential population density of sex offenders...who are on probation, parole, or extended supervision..." If the Department assumes that housing must be located in rural areas of every county, and that each of the approximately 3,600 offenders must be dispersed, it appears unrealistic that sufficient existing housing exists.

This bill does not require the Department to construct and manage housing for offenders. Nevertheless, one option is for the Department to construct multi-unit-housing units in rural areas of each county. Assuming a construction cost of \$35,000 per offender to construct efficiency apartments, the five-year building costs total \$126,875,000, excluding the costs of purchasing land. A second option is the Department could purchase and manage existing rural motel/hotel units in counties where they are available.

The Department could also contract with rural temporary living placement vendors who would construct and manage housing in rural areas. The Department is currently paying an average of \$27.25 per night for beds. Total annual costs for 3,625 beds would total \$36,385,900. This would provide the added benefit of on-site vendor staff to provide on-site supervision.

Offenders paying rent for the units would offset some of the costs of any of these options. If we assume each offender pays \$400 per month, once employed, at the end of the five-year period, annual revenue is approximately \$17,400,000.

Local Government Impact:

Multi-unit housing units that are constructed by the State in rural areas may remove land from tax roles thus reducing a community's tax revenues.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications