Wisconsin Department of Administration Division of Executive Budget and Finance DOA-2048 (R07/2000)

Fiscal Estimate - 2001 Session

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LRB Nu	ımber 01-3 5	21/1		Introd	duction Number	r SI	B-321			
Subject Copy of ac	ccident report to fa	milies o	f victims							
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOT 11/30/01

LRB Number	01-3521/1	Introduction Number	SB-321	Estimate Type	Original						
Subject											
Copy of accident report to families of victims											

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2001 SB 321 would require any law enforcement agency which completes an MV4000 accident report for a crash which results in a death to make every "reasonable" effort to identify the deceased person's next-of-kin and to offer them a copy of the MV4000 report before the report is forwarded to the Department of Transportation (DOT), or before the report is offered to any other person until the next-of-kin have either received or declined a copy of the report, or until 48 hours after the report has been completed, whichever occurs first.

The "completion" of an MV4000 report form as required in SB 321, is sometimes difficult to determine. A "completed" MV4000 report form for a fatal crash may take additional time if numerous supplemental reports and/or photographs are required; law enforcement has 10 days to submit an MV4000 report form to DOT. The next-of-kin may be notified of the death and have an opportunity to receive the MV4000 report without all details identified and without any supplemental reports as soon as possible; how this "completion" is determined in relation to the requirements of SB 321 may not have a fiscal effect on law enforcement, but may be open for interpretation in meeting the intent of the proposal and the DOT notification and 48-hour deadlines.

Since the State Patrol and most other local law enforcement agencies have the policy of making every reasonble effort to locate the next-of-kin as soon as is possible after a crash, the enactment of SB 321 would not create any additional substantial effort for State Patrol and local law enforcement agencies.

Additionally, the State Patrol routinely offers MV4000 reports to the next-of-kin at no cost, thus enactment of SB 321 would not require additional costs to State Patrol from what is routinely absorbed for reporting a fatal crash.

However, it is indeterminable as to how many local law enforcement agencies also have the policy of providing next-of-kin with MV4000 crash reports for no cost. Some MV4000 reports can be extensive, requiring supplemental reports and/or photographs, and resulting in a moderate cost for copying the entire report. Thus, there may be some costs for copying to be absorbed by local law enforcement agencies if SB 321 were enacted, but that estimation is impossible to make.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

unknown