



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**  
**DATCP 1/27/2003**

LRB Number	<b>03-1363/1</b>	Introduction Number	<b>SB-10</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Subject</b>					
Regulating the sale of mercury thermometers					

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

This bill bans the sale and distribution of mercury thermometers, and proposes a seven-month delayed effective date. Exceptions are provided for food processing, food research and development, agricultural climate control, industrial measurement systems, and temperature calibration, and antiques or collectibles, similar to Minnesota law. Currently, at least 8 states and 15 municipalities have enacted bans on certain types of mercury thermometers.

Lacking a definition, the types of thermometers banned by the bill include a broad range of temperature measurement control devices, including clinical thermometers, oven and cooking thermometers, psychrometers and hygrometers used to measure moisture and relative humidity, laboratory and weather thermometers, and other devices sold for household, commercial, school and laboratory uses.

DATCP estimates 860,000 thermometer sales in Wisconsin per year, half of which are mercury-containing, based on a product flow analysis of these devices conducted by the State of Minnesota. The number of businesses subject to the sales prohibition cannot be quantified at this time, but will likely include pharmacies, hardware, specialty and general merchandise retailers and health care providers, in addition to manufacturers and distributors which supply and sell to these businesses.

DATCP estimates a variety of activities associated with administering the proposed ban, including market research and educational outreach during the first year, and compliance monitoring, complaint investigation and enforcement following the seven-month delayed effective date. DATCP estimates additional workload exceeding 2100 hours per year during the first two years of the ban. Presuming some activities will be shared or coordinated with existing staff, the Department estimates the need for 1.0 FTE regulatory specialist or investigator position. GPR costs include salary and fringe of \$49,700; supplies and services of \$7,500, including costs associated with the purchase of enforcement samples; and one-time costs of \$8,900.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

Long-range fiscal implications are unknown. However, activities and costs associated with enforcement are assumed to decrease in future years as manufacturers phaseout most mercury thermometers, and federal agencies or other states act individually or cooperatively to ban or restrict the sale of mercury-based products.

## Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2003 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> 03-1363/1		<b>Introduction Number</b> SB-10	
<b>Subject</b>			
Regulating the sale of mercury thermometers			
<b>I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):</b>			
\$8,900 for office set-up and computer			
<b>II. Annualized Costs:</b>		<b>Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:</b>	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes		\$49,700	
(FTE Position Changes)		(1.0 FTE)	
State Operations - Other Costs		7,500	
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>		<b>\$57,200</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>			
GPR		57,200	
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)</b>			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes		\$	\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT</b>			
		<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS		\$57,200	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE		\$	\$
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>		<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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