



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**

**DOC 6/13/2003**

LRB Number <b>03-2178/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>SB-169</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Subject</b> Death with Dignity		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

This bill allows terminally ill Wisconsin residents who are at least 18 years of age and of sound mind to request prescription medication for euthanasia purposes from the patient's attending physician. This bill prevents penalties against either the individual or the physician assisting in the euthanasia process.

During the last two years, an average of 53 adult inmates/year died while incarcerated in a Wisconsin prison. Approximately 45-50% of those individuals died from a terminal illness. The percentage of terminally ill inmates who would request medication to end his or her life is unknown. Given the high cost of health care in the end stages of life, the Department could experience a reduction in health care expenditures for those individuals who elect to end their own life. The fiscal impact, however, cannot be determined.

If a terminally ill offender is serving time in a jail, instead of a prison, and the individual chooses to end their life through the euthanasia process, county health care costs could also decrease.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**