

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 6/16/2005

LRB Number 05-1189/2	Introduction Number AB-207	Estimate Type Original
Subject Exempting certain health care professionals from discipline and liability for refusing to participate in abortions, sterilizations, euthanasia, and certain other procedures on moral or religious ground		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill expands the definition of employment discrimination based on creed to include discriminating against an employee or prospective employee on the basis of his or her refusal, based on creed, to participate in certain activities, including sterilization, abortions, experiments or medical procedures that destroy or make use of human embryos, experiments or procedures on a developing fetus, procedures using fetal tissues from certain sources, withholding or withdrawing nutrition or hydration from an individual, to the extent that it results in death, and assisted suicide or euthanasia.

This bill expands certain limits on liability to allow hospitals, health care professionals, and hospital employees to include a refusal to participate in any of the activities specified above. The bill extends this liability to licensed pharmacists, who cannot be held liable for damages that result from refusal to participate in the activities listed above.

Under this legislation, it is unlikely that the federal government would find Wisconsin out of compliance with federal Medicaid law or state plan requirements. AB 207 is unlikely to have a fiscal effect on the Department.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications