

Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 05-0690/3	Introduction Number AB-503	
Subject		
Define marriage as between one man and one woman and create a process for establishing domestic partnerships		
Fiscal Effect		
State:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		
Local:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue		
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory		
Fund Sources Affected		
<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 s.20.435 (1)(a)		
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations		
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
DHFS/ Ellen Hadidian (608) 266-8155	Andy Forsaith (608) 266-7684	7/11/2005

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHFS 7/11/2005

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Subject					
Define marriage as between one man and one woman and create a process for establishing domestic partnerships					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill provides requirements for forming a legal relationship of domestic partnership. The procedure established by this bill is similar to the procedure for obtaining a marriage license and creates a registration system for legal documents proclaiming domestic partnership. The procedure will require changes in information technology systems, forms and record keeping by the Department.

The bill also defines marriage as a civil contract between a man and a woman and provides that domestic partners of employees of the University of Wisconsin are eligible to receive coverage under the group health insurance program.

Under this bill, the Department must set up a record filing system for the new legal documents in the Department's Vital Records office. There will be some one-time and ongoing costs associated with this new system. Assuming that 10,000 domestic partnerships will be registered each year, there will be one-time costs of \$12,300 for system and form development. There will also be a one-time cost of \$4,500 to train local county clerks and registers of deeds in the new procedure.

As with marriage licenses, the Department will need to provide certified copies of the domestic partner agreement. This will result in one-time costs of \$6,100 for the creation of a new service code and a microfiche index and the revision of the forms which are used to purchase vital records. If the Department converts to an on-line records system for vital records management in the future, there will also be additional costs to convert domestic partnership declarations.

There will be an ongoing workload increase to the Vital Records Office of the Department as a result of this bill. Based on the experience of other states that allow domestic partnerships, there will be at least 20 hours a week of additional work for form processing, answering questions, and compiling reports. The Department estimates that .5 GPR Program Assistant 2 FTE, at a cost of \$18,200 GPR annually, will be required to enable the Vital Records Office to fulfill the requirements of this bill. The one-time cost for this position will be \$4,000. Additional on-going costs, including form printing and mainframe storage charges, are estimated to be \$6,200.

Total one-time costs of this bill will be \$26,900. Total annual costs of the bill will be \$24,400.

County Costs

AB 503 allows county clerks to charge a fee for the issuance of declarations of domestic partnership that is the equivalent of the statutory fee for marriage licenses, which is currently \$49.50. Of this fee, \$25 is to be paid into the state treasury and the remainder is to become part of the funds of the county. If 10,000 licenses are issued, counties will receive \$245,000 from fees and the state treasury will receive \$250,000 from this provision.

AB 503 also allows clerks to charge the standard notary fee for domestic partnership declarations. This amount varies by county. Counties will receive additional revenue, depending on the number of declarations issued and the amount of the county fee. It is not possible to predict what this revenue will be.

It is estimated that the one-time implementation costs to change their data systems which counties will incur will be between \$2,500 and \$3,500 per county.

Under current law, counties are allowed to charge additional fees to cover the costs of issuing licenses, but AB 503 does not include this provision for domestic partnership declarations. It is not possible to estimate

the number of domestic partnership declarations each county will be required to process. The costs of issuing marriage licenses varies among counties and it is assumed that the cost of issuing domestic partnership declarations will also vary. Because of the variation in county costs and uncertainty about the number of declarations by county, it is not possible to estimate the cost to county clerk offices of the provisions in this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2005 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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Subject			
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I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
One time costs for system changes, forms printing, staff position support, preservation of records \$26,900			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
	State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$17,000	
	(FTE Position Changes)	(0.5 FTE)	
	State Operations - Other Costs	7,400	
	Local Assistance		
	Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
	TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$24,400	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
	GPR	24,400	
	FED		
	PRO/PRS		
	SEG/SEG-S		
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
	GPR Taxes	\$250,000	\$
	GPR Earned		
	FED		
	PRO/PRS		
	SEG/SEG-S		
	TOTAL State Revenues	\$250,000	\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
		State	Local
	NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$24,400	\$
	NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$250,000	\$245,000
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
DHFS/ Ellen Hadidian (608) 266-8155		Andy Forsaith (608) 266-7684	7/11/2005