Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

\boxtimes	Original		Updated		Corrected		Supplemental
LRB	Number	05-2838/2	2	Intro	duction Nun	nber A	B-624
Subje	ct						
Payme	ent for repres	entation by pub	olic defender		-		
Fiscal	Effect						
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Agenc	y/Prepared	Ву	Au	thorized	Signature		Date
SPD/ Mike Tobin (608) 266-8259				sta Gingei	8/15/2005		

Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 8/24/2005

LRB Number	05-2838/2	Introduction Number	AB-624	Estimate Type	Original					
Subject										
Payment for representation by public defender										

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation in criminal cases and other specified proceedings in which the loss of personal liberty or parental rights may occur. For adult clients, the SPD must complete a financial eligibility evaluation before appointing an attorney. SPD services are constitutionally required because in the case types handled by SPD, a defendant without the financial means to hire an attorney has the right to have an attorney appointed. Therefore, any bill that would increase the number of cases handled by SPD would increase SPD costs.

This bill does not create a new offense or change either the procedures orpenalties applicable to cases handled by the SPD. Thus, it does not result in any added costs to the SPD.

The bill clarifies the SPD procedures to collect attorney fees from adult clients. The bill expands the authority of the SPD Board to set the applicable time period for clients to pay the discount fee instead of the higher fee. The discount fee accounts for most of the SPD's collections revenue.

The SPD presently gives clients 60 days within which to pay the discount fee. If the bill is enacted, the SPD might undertake pilot programs to see if a different time period might produce more revenue. The SPD regularly reports on its collections revenue and projections.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications