

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 5/10/2005

LRB Number	05-1668/1	Introduction Number	AB-301	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Placement of sex offenders					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Current law restricts where certain persons who have been convicted of a serious sex offense against a child may reside if they are living in the community. This bill would place additional residency restrictions upon these child sex offenders on parole or extended supervision who have refused sex offender treatment while incarcerated--the offender may not live within 1,000 feet of any multi-unit housing if any of the units houses a child nor within 1,000 feet of any private or public school.

The bill prohibits the Wisconsin Parole Commission from paroling and prohibits the Department from releasing to extended supervision these child sex offenders who have refused sex offender treatment and who do not agree to the additional residency requirements.

During CY 2004, 70 offenders were released who were convicted of a sex offense included in this bill and had refused sex offender treatment while incarcerated.

Twenty-six of the 70 were directly discharged [no longer under the supervision or control of the Department]. Five of the 70 were committed to a sex offender treatment facility. Assuming this data is representative of future statistics, the Department will have to identify housing that avoids a 1,000 foot area surrounding any multi-unit housing or public or private schools for the approximately 39 offenders/year. Eleven of the 39 offenders were released to Milwaukee County.

Although the Department currently has information on school locations, it does not have centralized data indicating the location of multi-unit housing. As a result, the time required to identify prohibited areas will increase.

It is assumed that multi-unit housing with children is quite prevalent in urban areas and it will be difficult to find housing for these offenders. In addition, the Department uses halfway houses for offenders who need a more structured living arrangement. The Department's ability to use this housing option may be restricted because halfway houses are usually in urban settings and may be close to multi-unit dwellings.

The Department cannot predict the number of offenders who would accept sex offender treatment while in prison as a result of this bill. However, any incarcerated child sex offender who refuses sex offender treatment who does not agree to the additional prohibited residency requirements would remain in prison. It costs approximately \$28,000/year to incarcerate an offender. The precise increased cost will be dependent on how many offenders continue to refuse treatment.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications