

Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 05-3881/1	Introduction Number AB-819
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Description
 Directing the University of Wisconsin Law School to require students to complete a clinical practicum

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs		
<input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input 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	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations
<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	

Agency/Prepared By UWS/ Leslie Perelman (608) 262-5850	Authorized Signature Freda Harris (608) 263-5679	Date 11/30/2005
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

UWS 11/30/2005

LRB Number	05-3881/1	Introduction Number	AB-819	Estimate Type	Original
Description Directing the University of Wisconsin Law School to require students to complete a clinical practicum					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill directs the University of Wisconsin Law School to require all law students successfully complete a six to eight credit clinical practicum in order to receive a degree. Current enrollment is 867 students and approximately 1/3 of that total already participates in a clinical experience that would satisfy the requirements of the proposed legislation. An extensive review of current areas that offer clinical programs at the Law School was completed in 2003 and revealed that the cost was approximately \$822 per pure clinical credit. This estimate was based on average enrollments from FY 2001, 2002 and 2003 and actual costs and budgeted amounts for FY 2002 and 2003.

Assembly Bill 819 requires a 6 to 8 credit clinical practicum for the entire student body or an average experience of 7 credits. This would yield a total required clinical credit load for the entire student body of 6,069 credits (867 students x 7 credits) over a three year period. Recognizing that about 1/3 of the student body already meets the requirement (equal to approximately 2,023 credits), the Law School would need to offer an additional 4,046 credits each three years or 1,349 additional clinical credits per year. At \$822 per credit, the Law School would need an additional \$1,108,878 to meet increased operating expenses. This cost includes salary for 20 FTE who function as supervising attorneys. Most of the additional operating costs are related to increased salary costs as the student faculty ratio in a clinical experience is much lower (6:1) than in regular classroom instruction.

Increased building costs, above and beyond the aforementioned increased operating costs, would also be accrued as there currently is no space in which to expand the existing clinical programs. The Frank J. Remington Center currently provides the vast majority of existing clinical experiences as well as a significant amount of classroom teaching. Also, as a partial response to existing space limitations, the vast majority of the current clinical experiences are offered during the summer. Expanding the program as required by this proposed legislation would not be possible within the confines of current space limitations. The Remington Center is presently housed in less than 10,000 square feet of space. A tripling of the clinical practicum program would require between 10,000 and 20,000 square feet of additional space. How this additional space would be acquired and at what cost is presently unknown but can be expected to exceed the approximately \$1.1 million of additional annual operating costs.

The above estimate is the least expensive (i.e., most conservative) way of assessing the annual operating costs of AB 819. A simpler, but perhaps more realistic, approach would be to take the view that the budget of the Remington Center would need to be doubled or tripled to meet the proposed need. (The current budget of the Remington Center is \$1,139,709 and the existing FTE level there is 20.0 FTE). As noted, the Remington Center currently provides the vast majority of clinical experiences but also a significant amount of classroom teaching. This approach does not change the anticipated additional costs related to additional building needs that arise from current space limitations.

As a result, we have indicated an annual cost increase of \$1,900,000, which consists of the average between the \$1,108,878 noted in paragraph two and an estimate of 2.5 times the present budget of the Remington Center, as noted in paragraph four.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The additional 6–8 credit clinical requirement for every law student would have a broad impact on curricular choice and will likely result in one or both of the following outcomes:

- 1) it will effectively reduce the number of electives that students could take; and/or
- 2) the length of time to degree will potentially be lengthened for those students who wish to take other electives in

addition to the required clinical practicum. We are unable to estimate with any accuracy the tuition revenue implications of the latter scenario.

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2005 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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Description Directing the University of Wisconsin Law School to require students to complete a clinical practicum			
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):			
The additional building costs cannot be determined at this point. Debt service for these costs are not included below.			
II. Annualized Costs:		Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
A. State Costs by Category			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$1,900,000		
(FTE Position Changes)			
State Operations - Other Costs			
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations			
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$1,900,000		\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
GPR	1,900,000		
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	\$		\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
TOTAL State Revenues	\$		\$
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT			
	State	Local	
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$1,900,000		\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$		\$
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	Date
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