

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 4/1/2005

LRB Number	05-1667/4	Introduction Number	SB-88	Estimate Type	Corrected
Subject					
Payment for treatment of gender identity disorder					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill prohibits utilizing state funds or resources or federal funds to provide or to facilitate hormonal therapy or sexual reassignment surgery to alter the appearance of a prisoner or forensic patient so that they appear more like the opposite gender.

Under current law, the Department of Corrections (DOC) is required to provide medical services for offenders housed in state prisons. Currently it is the policy of the Wisconsin Department of Corrections (WDOC) to provide appropriate treatment services to offenders meeting the criteria for a diagnosis of gender identity disorder. Practitioners are instructed to take correctional and community standards of care into consideration when providing treatment services. No surgical procedures for the purpose of sexual reassignment is provided to any offenders incarcerated in the WDOC. After consultation with the Department's Gender Identity Disorder Committee, hormonal therapy for severe gender dysphoria may be initiated by WDOC physicians.

In CY04 DOC expended approximately \$2,300 on hormone therapy for two inmates. The Department has never expended any funds for sexual reassignment surgery. It is impossible to predict how many inmates will come into the prison system with this diagnosis in the future.

The costs of discontinuing treatment would vary from inmate to inmate. While hormones tend to improve psychological well-being for those with Gender Identity Disorder (GID), discontinuation of hormone treatment may result in disruptive behavior by inmates with GID. Additional resources that may be needed to deal with this potential disruptive behavior cannot be estimated.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications