

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 9/11/2007

LRB Number	07-1922/1	Introduction Number	SB-193	Estimate Type	Original
Description Drunken driving and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill is unlikely to result in more OWI cases being brought before the courts, but the higher fines and forfeitures may result in more contested cases. Testimony about blood alcohol concentration levels is likely to be offered in more cases.

The county Clerk of Circuit Courts office is responsible for collecting fines and forfeiture. Clerks of Circuit Court employ numerous techniques to collect unpaid fines and forfeitures from persons unable to pay, including payment plans, state income tax intercept and recommendations for contempt proceedings. Higher maximum fines or forfeitures will likely increase the numbers of person unable to pay and therefore increase the workload of the Clerk of Circuit Court office.

Fines and forfeitures collected are likely to increase because of the provisions of this bill. Under the Wisconsin Constitution, revenue from fines and forfeitures collected by the circuit courts are deposited in the common school fund. Forfeitures collected by municipal courts are retained by the municipality. Municipal courts involve city, village and town governments. It is not possible to estimate the potential revenue these fines and forfeitures may generate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications