

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 7/2/2008

LRB Number	07-4123/2	Introduction Number	SB-555	Estimate Type	Original
Description Public notification of the location of sexually violent persons					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under this bill, when a person who has been found to be a sexually violent person is released from a state facility or changes addresses, the state agency which has or had jurisdiction of the sexually violent person is required to notify each residential address within a one-mile radius of the proposed residence.

Currently, 19 sexually violent offenders are on supervised release in local communities. The Department of Corrections [DOC] supervises these individuals through a contractual agreement with the Department of Health and Family Services [DHFS]. According to DHFS, two additional sexually violent offenders are granted supervised release by the courts each year. In addition, 30 individuals have been discharged by Wisconsin courts from their commitment as a sexually violent person; 29 live in Wisconsin and one resides in Texas. All 30 are required to register with the sex offender registry.

Registrants, including sexually violent offenders, must notify the Department's Sex Offender Registry [SOR] of any change of address. Although DHFS will know of any releases from a DHFS facility, and of pending releases from a DOC facility, DHFS may not receive direct notification from the 30 individuals currently discharged from their commitment. The Department's SOR staff would convey that information to DHFS upon receipt of the new address allowing DHFS staff to process the residential notifications.

The Department's workload may increase from transmitting new addresses to DHFS. The address information provided to local residents will include the Department's SOR telephone number and citizens having questions or concerns about a registrant will contact the Department's SOR staff.

Currently, local law enforcement decides whether or not community notification will take place when any registrant moves into a community. Resident notification may increase the demand upon local law enforcement to hold community meetings [with associated cost increases] which will increase the Department's workload.

In summary, the Department's workload may increase to transmit new addresses to the DHFS, respond to questions and concerns of residents, and participate in additional community notification meetings. The Department is able to absorb the additional workload. Costs of mailings will be borne by the DHFS.

Local law enforcement costs may increase if there are additional community notifications.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications