



**Fiscal Estimate Narratives**

**DHFS 4/3/2007**

LRB Number <b>07-1074/2</b>	Introduction Number <b>SB-088</b>	Estimate Type <b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> Requiring health insurance coverage of hearing aids and cochlear implants for infants and young children		

**Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

SB 88 requires health insurance policies to cover the cost of hearing aids and cochlear implants in children aged under five years of age. Currently the Medical Assistance (MA) and BadgerCare programs pay for these costs for Medicaid and BadgerCare recipients; therefore, the bill will not increase costs to these programs. MA is the payer of last resort for recipients' medical costs. The bill could reduce costs to MA and BadgerCare to the extent recipients have private insurance that will now be required to cover hearing aids and cochlear implants. It is not possible to quantify such savings, which are expected to be modest.

The bill requires self-insured plans of counties, cities, towns, villages, and school districts to offer these benefits as well. To the extent that these governing agencies have self-insurance plans which do not include these benefits, there may be an additional cost to local government, which is not possible to estimate.

**Long-Range Fiscal Implications**