



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 4/14/2010

LRB Number	09-4525/3	Introduction Number	AB-0943	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Adopting the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and making an appropriation					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill adopts the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children, an interstate compact that has been adopted, as of March 22, 2010, by 28 states. The compact addresses school transition issues encountered by children of military families, such as their eligibility, enrollment, placement, and graduation. For example:

- 1.) The compact requires a school district to accept the unofficial records of a school district in another member state for the purposes of enrolling and placing a child of a military family until the official records may be obtained.
- 2.) The compact allows a pupil to request additional excused absences to visit with his or her deployed parent or guardian.
- 3.) The compact allows school districts to waive graduation requirements if similar requirements have been completed in a school district in another state.

The compact requires each member state to establish a state council and to appoint a state military education liaison to assist military families and the state in facilitating the implementation of the compact. Each state must also appoint a state commissioner, who is the state's member on the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Under the bill, this state's council consists of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction; the superintendent of a school district with a high concentration of children of military families, a representative from a military installation, and the compact commissioner, all of whom are appointed by the State Superintendent; a member of the Senate; a member of the Assembly; and the military family education liaison, who is appointed by the other council members.

This bill makes several changes to the compact, including the following:

- 1.) The compact authorizes the interstate commission to promulgate rules to achieve the purposes of the compact. This bill provides that a rule promulgated by the interstate commission is effective in a member state only if it is approved by the Legislature of the member state or the State Superintendent of Education of the member state.
- 2.) The compact authorizes the interstate commission to levy and collect from each member state an annual assessment to cover the costs the commission's operations and activities. This bill provides that this state's annual assessment is the lesser of \$1,000 or the amount calculated by multiplying \$1 by the number of children of military families enrolled in public schools in the state.
- 3.) The compact provides that a member state may withdraw from the compact by repealing the statute that enacted the compact. This bill provides that a member state may also withdraw by enacting a law withdrawing from the compact.

State: The appropriation created by the bill under the budget of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) (proposed section 20.255 (3)(f) of the statutes, Interstate Compact on educational opportunity for military children) is sum sufficient. It is to be equal to the lesser of \$1,000 per year or the amount calculated by multiplying \$1 by the number of children of military families who are enrolled in Wisconsin schools. Therefore state costs for the program cannot rise above \$1,000 per year, provided the state does not pay any travel reimbursements.

The members of the State Council on the Interstate Impact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

are to serve without compensation. It is assumed that the state military education liaison and the state commissioner required under this bill will already be employed in military and / or educational functions, and would perform these duties in conjunction with their current employment, thus necessitating no additional salary from the state.

The bill is silent on whether members of the state council are to be reimbursed for expenses (meals, lodging, mileage). If they were reimbursed, the cost to the state could rise beyond \$1,000 per year, depending on the amount of reimbursement. That figure is indeterminate since the number and length of meetings, the number of members who would need reimbursements, and the distance to be traveled to and from meetings, is unknown.

The interstate commission is to meet at least once each calendar year. Its function is the formation of public policy and is a discretionary state function. If Wisconsin chose to participate at these meetings, it would be entitled to one vote, to be cast by the state's compact commissioner. The amount of reimbursement to be paid to the compact commissioner is indeterminate since the number and length of meetings and the distance that would need to be traveled to and from the meetings, is unknown.

Local: It is assumed that the provisions of the interstate compact will have limited fiscal impact on Wisconsin school districts. Any costs are indeterminate.

### **Long-Range Fiscal Implications**