

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOA 4/16/2009

LRB Number	09-1205/1	Introduction Number	AB-0196	Estimate Type	Original
Description Providing the public with information on state agency and school district operations expenditures and state agency and school district contracts and grants					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

If enacted, this legislation requires the Department of Administration (DOA), beginning July 1, 2011, to maintain a searchable public Internet website that details all state agency expenditures for state operations over \$25, including current and past state employee salaries, pay adjustments, bonuses, lump sum payments and fringe benefit payments, but excluding aids to individuals and organizations and local assistance payments. In addition, beginning July 1, 2011, the Department of Administration would be required to maintain a searchable public Internet website that details all contracts and grants entered into by a state agency. The website would contain a copy of the contract or grant, the state agency making the grant or entering into the contract, the name and address of the person receiving the grant or entering into the contract, the purpose of the grant or contract, the amount of the grant or the amount the state agency must expend under the terms of the contract, and the name of the state fund from which the grant is paid. The department would also need to ensure that users could request and receive electronic updates of expenditure information upon request.

The bill also requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to report to DOA all school district expenditures for operations over \$25 for inclusion on the searchable public Internet website. DPI would also be required to report school district information related to grants and contracts, including copies of the financial instruments used to make contract payments.

The State of Wisconsin currently utilizes WiSMART as the state accounting system. In addition, state agencies, the legislature and the court system currently utilize 38 different human resource and payroll systems, and more than 59 different financial management systems. Many of these systems interface their data with the state's accounting system. However, some of these financial, payroll and check writing systems send only batch accounting data to the state accounting system, rather than detailed information that would fulfill the requirements of AB-196. In order to meet all of the requirements of AB-196, the Department anticipates that a comprehensive IT project plan would need to be developed to address issues related to collecting and managing the detailed accounting data currently maintained in the various state systems, and making it accessible on a searchable public website. A study was conducted in 1997 by the Department to identify a project model for a central data repository to support a central reporting system that would work in conjunction with WiSMART and would fulfill some of the requirements specified in AB-196. At that time, the staff hours to develop this data repository were estimated at 17,664 hours.

Privacy and confidentiality issues would also need to be considered when developing the required expenditure and contract websites. Although AB-196 does not specifically reference these issues, the Department will have to work closely with state agencies, IT programmers and privacy specialists to ensure that the privacy interests of clients, payees, and the public are protected.

Given the broad scope and administrative impact of AB-196, the Department would need a considerable amount of time to accurately estimate the fiscal effect of this bill. Therefore, the Department's fiscal estimate is indeterminate at this time.

The local fiscal impact of this bill is also indeterminate. The Department does not have access to school district data needed to calculate the fiscal impact of supplying expenditure data to DPI.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Unknown.