

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 09-3945/1	Introduction Number AB-0657	
Description Theft of communication and video services, civil damages resulting from the theft of certain services, and providing penalties		
Fiscal Effect		
State:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
Local:		
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate		
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts		
Fund Sources Affected		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations		
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
SPD/ Mike Tobin (608) 266-8259	Krista Ginger (608) 264-8572	1/19/2010

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
SPD 1/19/2010

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal proceedings. The SPD plays a major role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation has the potential to increase SPD costs if it creates a new criminal offense, expands the definition of an existing criminal offense, or increases the penalties for an existing offense.

This bill creates a new misdemeanor criminal offense for theft of communication and video services. The SPD's average cost to provide representation in a misdemeanor case is \$214.11, calculated on the basis of the SPD's average cost per case in fiscal year 2009.

Because probation could be ordered upon conviction for the additional cases attributable to the proposed new criminal offense, this bill would indirectly lead to additional cases in which the Department of Corrections (DOC) would seek to revoke probation. The SPD provides representation in proceedings commenced by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to revoke supervision. Thus, the bill would indirectly increase the number of cases in which the SPD appoints attorneys in revocation proceedings. The average cost during fiscal year 2009 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$382.18.

Therefore, the SPD would incur additional costs because of additional misdemeanor and revocation cases attributable to this bill. The SPD has no data to predict the number of additional cases that would result from the change proposed in this bill. Because of the annual caseloads for staff attorney positions specified for budgeting purposes under § 977.08(5), Stats., it would be more cost effective to add staff attorney positions if a significant number of SPD cases resulted from this provision of the bill.

Counties are also subject to increased costs when a new crime is created. There are some defendants who, despite exceeding the SPD's statutory financial guidelines, are constitutionally eligible for appointment of counsel because it would be a substantial hardship for them to retain an attorney. The court is required to appoint counsel at county expense for these defendants. Thus, the counties would experience increased costs attributable to additional criminal charges resulting from this bill. The counties could also incur additional costs associated with incarceration of defendants, pending trial (or pending a proceeding to revoke probation) and after sentencing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications