



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 3/10/2010

LRB Number	<b>09-3829/1</b>	Introduction Number	<b>AB-0750</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> Mandatory testing of prison inmates upon release for HIV or sexually transmitted diseases.					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current State law, a court may order a person to undergo testing to detect the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and sexually transmitted diseases (STD) if the person is 1) an adult charged with or convicted of sexual assault, sexual assault or sexual exploitation of a child, incest with a child, or, if the person works at a school, sexual assault of a student, or 2) a child alleged to have committed sexual assault, sexual assault or sexual exploitation of a child, or incest with a child.

Current law also permits a court to order a person who is confined in a state prison or any other state, county, or municipal detention facility to be tested for the presence of communicable diseases if he or she assaults another prisoner or detainee or an officer, employee, or visitor at the facility by throwing or expelling blood, semen, vomit, saliva, urine, feces, or any other bodily substance at or toward the other person.

Currently, inmates are voluntarily tested for STDs upon their entry into the Wisconsin correctional system. Approximately 90-92% of the inmates agree to have HIV testing at admission. The Department of Corrections (DOC) does not have data available as to how many inmates submit to additional STD testing at admission. However, at any time during an inmate's stay in corrections, he or she can request and receive additional STD testing given the patient's health history and symptoms. Treatment is provided to inmates who test positive for STDs.

Under this bill, all inmates being released from a correctional facility must submit to mandatory STD testing before release. Results of the tests are given to the inmate and spouse only. If a person tests positive for an STD, the inmate will be treated, and counseling for the inmate and spouse will be provided before the inmate is released from the facility.

The Wisconsin Resource Center (WRC) in the Department of Health Services (DHS) treats approximately 343 DOC inmates with severe and persistent mental health needs. In addition, it houses approximately 83 patients committed under Chapter 980 Sexually Violent Persons Commitments. For the purposes of this estimate, only correctional inmates being released from WRC and the direct costs to WRC will be considered, because this bill applies only to inmates. The STD tests included in this estimate, are HIV, chlamydia, syphilis, and gonorrhea.

WRC releases approximately 130 DOC inmates per year from its facility. Under this bill, each inmate will need to be tested for STDs prior to release with the results being given to the inmate and spouse, if applicable. Staff that are involved in this process are Nurse Clinician 2s, Medical Technologist Seniors, and Office Operations Associates. Total staff time to draw, collect, and prepare samples for shipment is estimated to be 80 minutes for each inmate. Total staff costs (salary and fringe) would be approximately \$6,853 GPR per year.

If DHS assumes that 15 inmates will test positive each year for an STD, and, if DHS assumes one hour of counseling by a physician for each inmate and spouse, if applicable, physician costs (salary and fringe) would be approximately \$1,969 GPR per year.

This estimate assumes that 13 of 15 inmates who test positive had tested positive when they underwent voluntary testing when they entered prison. These inmates would currently be undergoing treatment for their STDs at WRC. If DHS assumes that 2 inmates are found to be infected with a previously unknown STD, then WRC will treat the inmates for the infection until their release. STD treatment costs about \$2,000 per month. Assuming the STD is diagnosed one month prior to the inmate's release these treatment costs would be approximately \$4,000 GPR per year.

Lab supplies such as syringes, vials, and collection cups would be approximately \$800 GPR per year and the shipping costs for mailing weekly specimens to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) for analysis is estimated at \$468 GPR per year. DHS assumes there will be no cost to the Department for the

analysis of the specimens by the WSLH.

Total annual cost is expected to be approximately \$14,090 GPR for WRC. The Department is able to absorb these costs.

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