

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
OSER 4/14/2009

LRB Number	09-2562/1	Introduction Number	SB-161	Estimate Type	Original
Description Administration of certain public assistance programs in Milwaukee County, removing county civil service protections from certain employees, required provisions in certain collective bargaining agreements under the Municipal Employment Relations Act, and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish a Milwaukee County enrollment services unit to determine eligibility for Medical Assistance, FoodShare, and funeral and cemetery aid programs. The bill permits the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to contract with DHS for child care subsidy program (SHARES) functions. Under the bill, DHS would administer the income maintenance and state supplemental payment programs in Milwaukee County.

The bill requires that supervisory personnel in the enrollment services unit be state employees and that all other employees in the unit may be a combination of state and county employees. The county is required to expend an amount specified in the bill for the operation of income maintenance programs in the county, and DHS must reimburse the county for approved costs, primarily related to staff.

It might be assumed that workloads and associated costs would increase for operations at the Office of State Employment Relations, though these assumed increases would be indeterminate and likely negligible for two reasons. The first reason is that OSER is already responsible for centralized employment relations functions under the State Employment Relations Act (SELRA) found at sec. 111.80 Wis. Stats., and this bill would not add significantly to that responsibility. The second reason is that the vast majority of current Milwaukee County employees affected by this bill would remain county employees whose employment rights and collective bargaining agreements would continue to be administered by county personnel under the Municipal Employment Relations Act (MERA) found at sec. 111.70, Wis. Stats.

Please see fiscal estimates submitted by the Departments of Health Services and Children and Families for their respective assessments of costs associated with the bill's provisions.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications