

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 9/2/2009

LRB Number	09-2717/2	Introduction Number	SB-260	Estimate Type	Original
Description Granting police authority to technical college district boards					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Wisconsin's 16 technical colleges, which are almost exclusively non-resident campuses, have historically provided campus security services under a number of different arrangements. For example, Lakeshore Technical College, under an agreement with the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Department, has deputized police officers on campus from from 8:00am until 10:30pm Monday through Thursday, and until 4:30pm on Friday. During 2004 campus renovations, Blackhawk Technical College dedicated space for the Rock County Sheriff's Department, which rents the space from the college and provides a police presence on campus during shift changes and at other times. Lakeshore, Blackhawk, and other technical colleges otherwise typically rely on unarmed students in the colleges' criminal justice programs to provide campus safety services, which are generally overseen by a full-time or part-time campus safety administrator.

This bill authorizes technical college district boards to directly employ or contract for police for the purposes of preserving the peace on district property and enforcing laws and administrative rules.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The bill could result in no additional costs to technical colleges if a college chooses not to employ or contract for police. However, non-participating colleges could be subject to liability claims if they opt not to employ or contract for police and an incident occurs on campus.

Alternatively, the bill could increase costs at the colleges that opt to employ or contract for police officers by an amount that may vary widely based on the number of officers and the geographic location of the college. These costs may include wages and benefits for a protected class of employees, including post-employment benefits, that would most likely require negotiation with a new bargaining unit at participating colleges. In addition, expanding colleges' liability coverage to include police officers will likely increase colleges' insurance premiums.

The bill could also reduce revenues to City Police Departments or County Sheriff's Departments where agreements with technical colleges exist, if those colleges opt to discontinue the agreements in favor of opting to employ police officers.