

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 2/25/2009

LRB Number	09-0878/4	Introduction Number	SB-079	Estimate Type	Original
Description Public disclosure of certain information when abuse or neglect results in a child dying or being placed in serious or critical condition					

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 does not provide for a new criminal offense, expand the definition of a criminal offense, or increase criminal penalties. The bill proposes new reporting requirements for social-service agencies in certain cases of suspected child abuse or neglect. However, it does not appear that the proposed changes are likely to affect the number of such cases in which formal court proceedings are initiated. Therefore, the SPD does not anticipate any increase in its caseload as a result of this proposal.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications