

Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 11-3996/1	Introduction Number SB-523	
Description Trafficking food stamp program benefits		
Fiscal Effect		
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs </div> </div>		
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts </div> </div>		
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations <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 20.550(1)		
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 3/6/2012

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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 critical 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 adds trafficking of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to the list of SNAP offenses that are subject to penalties under current law. The offenses vary based, in most cases, on the value of the services and the number of SNAP offenses that the person has previously committed. Criminal penalties range from a Class C misdemeanor to a Class G felony. In FY2011, the SPD's average cost to provide representation with a private bar attorney in a misdemeanor case was \$225.41 and in a felony case was \$613.83.

The SPD has no data to predict the number of additional cases that could result from the changes proposed in this bill. The SPD has represented clients charged under § 49.795 an average of seven cases per year since FY2006. Because of the annual caseloads for staff attorney positions specified for budgeting purposes under § 977.08(5), it would be more cost effective to add staff attorney positions should the bill result in a significant number of additional charges.

Because probation could be ordered upon conviction for the 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 2011 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$322.46. Therefore, the SPD would incur additional costs because of additional revocation cases attributable to this 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 the higher classification of criminal charges resulting from this bill. The counties could also incur additional costs associated with incarceration of defendants, both pending trial and after sentencing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications