

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 2/10/2012

LRB Number	11-3755/1	Introduction Number	AB-0505	Estimate Type	Original
Description Participating in a veterans court program					

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 and certain commitment 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 would allow for the transfer of criminal cases involving veterans of the armed forces to counties that operate a qualified Veterans Court program.

The judiciary, prosecution, and defense components of the criminal justice system recognize the long term benefit of treatment courts in assisting individuals become productive members of society. The criminal justice system recognizes that society benefits from having individuals live and work in their communities, with their families, as opposed to a prison based retribution model. In addition to helping individual offenders reduce rates of recidivism, keeping the family unit together is a factor in reducing juvenile crime.

Evidence based decision making, from which specialty courts are derived, has been proven to reduce crime. Targeted treatment courts, such as veterans' courts, which proactively address an individual's specific needs, lead to individuals being more productive members of society. Recidivism, and its associated costs, are thereby reduced.

The SPD has no data to predict any potential costs or savings as a result of this legislation.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications