

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 3/8/2013

LRB Number	13-0508/1	Introduction Number	AB-0011	Estimate Type	Original
Description Notification requirements for registered sex offenders who are on school premises and providing penalties					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill prohibits sex offenders required to be registered on Wisconsin's Sex Offender Registry from being in any school building, on school grounds, school recreation areas or athletic fields without first notifying certain school officials of the specific date, time and place of the visit. The bill provides exceptions for voting, non-school sponsored events or activities or, if the offender has a child enrolled in the school, if the offender notifies the school at the beginning of each school year. This bill also requires the Department to notify sex offender registrants of the new requirements.

The Department would incur minimal costs for an additional mailing to current sex offender registrants (22,474 adult and juvenile offenders in October 2012) at the time of bill passage. These costs could be absorbed using the agency's base funding.

The bill also creates a Class A misdemeanor for a first time violation and a Class H felony for second and subsequent violations. The Department is unable to determine how many sex offenders will be convicted for disregarding the notification process. A Class A misdemeanor includes a maximum of 9 months in a county jail; a Class H felony includes a maximum of 3 years confinement in prison and 3 years extended supervision.

The average FY12 annual cost for an inmate in a DOC institution is approximately \$33,200. However, when there is excess capacity in DOC facilities, the incremental costs (i.e. food, health care and clothing) of housing a small number of inmates is approximately \$5,000 based on FY12 costs. Should the Department use contract beds, the rate would be approximately \$18,800 annually per person.

Jail costs may also increase if offenders are placed in jail rather than prison.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications