



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 7/26/2013

LRB Number	13-0698/1	Introduction Number	AB-0272	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Requiring distribution of autism-related information, providing funding for the Medical Assistance autism benefit, and making an appropriation					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would require the Department of Health Services (DHS) to serve all children currently on the wait list for autism treatment services in the Children's Long-Term Support Medicaid waiver program.

There are currently two levels of autism treatment, Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention and Consultative Behavioral Intervention. Families select the level that is most appropriate for the child and their family in consultation with their chosen treatment provider. Children can receive up to 3 years of autism treatment services at either/both levels in any combination. Children who begin with the EIBI benefit can transfer to the CBI benefit if it is determined that it will better fit the child and their family's needs.

Early Intensive Behavioral Intervention (EIBI) services use behavioral treatment methods to change socially important behaviors. The sequence of easier, precursor skills leading to more complex tasks are presented in a formal manner to the child to assist with mastery of each task. Children receiving this service receive a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 40 hours of face-to-face treatment per week. The average monthly cost for EIBI services is \$2,600 per month.

Consultative Behavioral Intervention (CBI) services use behavioral treatment methods to change socially important behaviors in measurable and meaningful ways in the child's daily life. The services often involve breaking skills down into their most basic components and rewarding positive performance, and are typically provided on an individualized basis in a manner specific to each child's developmental needs. Children receiving this service receive a minimum of 10 hours and a maximum of 20 hours of face-to-face treatment per week. The average cost for CBI services is \$1,380 per month.

Compulsory education laws in Wisconsin require children age 6 and older to attend school regularly. Children may find the 30 to 40 hours per week of treatment at the EIBI level to be too much in addition to the school day. Therefore, children in school may have a preference for the CBI level of treatment. While each child and family may have individual circumstances that contribute to the selection of EIBI or CBI treatment, this fiscal estimate assumes that children under the age of 6 will generally participate in EIBI services while children over the age of 6 will participate in CBI services.

After receiving 3 years of EIBI and/or CBI services, children in the Children's Long-Term Support Medicaid waiver program who receive autism treatment transition to continuing benefits. These benefits include supportive home care services and respite services, in addition to other Medicaid benefits. The cost of these services is approximately \$930 per month.

As of May 2013, there were 516 children on the wait list for autism treatment services; 397 of the children on the waitlist were below the age of 6. The estimated cost of serving all children on the waitlist for autism services is \$15,514,400 AF (\$6,337,900 GPR) per year. This includes treatment and administrative costs. Costs may be slightly higher than this estimate if expanded access leads to more families applying for services. Costs will fluctuate over time, depending on the number of new children diagnosed with autism who enroll in the program and the number of existing members who transition to continuing benefits.

While the figures above represent the annual cost of this policy, it should be noted that the Department would need to phase the new policy over a period of one to two years. County, state, and provider staff capacity would not allow for all children to begin waiver participation instantaneously.

Under the provisions of the bill, the Department would be required to annually create and distribute information regarding therapies that parents of children with autism spectrum disorder may provide at home to complement the child's treatment or individualized education program. DHS would accomplish this through discussions with the Department of Public Instruction, the Autism Society of Wisconsin, the Governor's Autism Council, and other groups that advocate for children with autism spectrum disorder. This

information would be posted on the DHS web site for access by interested individuals. The cost of gathering and distributing this information would be minimal and could be absorbed by the Department.

### **Long-Range Fiscal Implications**

## Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2013 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

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<b>Description</b> Requiring distribution of autism-related information, providing funding for the Medical Assistance autism benefit, and making an appropriation			
<b>I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):</b>			
<b>II. Annualized Costs:</b>		<b>Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:</b>	
		Increased Costs	Decreased Costs
<b>A. State Costs by Category</b>			
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes		\$	\$
(FTE Position Changes)			
State Operations - Other Costs			
Local Assistance			
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		15,514,400	
<b>TOTAL State Costs by Category</b>		<b>\$15,514,400</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>B. State Costs by Source of Funds</b>			
GPR		6,337,900	
FED		9,176,500	
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, ets.)</b>			
		Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes		\$	\$
GPR Earned			
FED			
PRO/PRS			
SEG/SEG-S			
<b>TOTAL State Revenues</b>		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT</b>			
		<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS		\$15,514,400	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE		\$	\$
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>		<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
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