

Fiscal Estimate - 2013 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 13-3962/1	Introduction Number AB-0685
Description Restricting information available on the consolidated court automated Internet site	
Fiscal Effect	
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	
Agency/Prepared By CTS/ Nancy Rottier (608) 267-9733	Authorized Signature Nancy Rottier (608) 267-9733
Date 2/5/2014	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 2/5/2014

LRB Number	13-3962/1	Introduction Number	AB-0685	Estimate Type	Original
Description Restricting information available on the consolidated court automated Internet site					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

In the mid-1980s the Legislature provided statutory authorization and an appropriation for the director of state courts to establish an automated information system for the circuit courts. The authorization is in s. 758.19(4), Stats:

"758.19(4) The director of state courts may develop, promote, coordinate and implement circuit court automated information systems that are compatible among counties using the moneys appropriated under s. 20.680 (2) (j)."

The director of state courts has chosen to use this authorization, starting in 1987, to develop the Consolidated Court Automation Programs (CCAP) that provides for the information technology needs of the entire court system. Starting in 1999, the court system created a public website known as the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access (WCCA). That website is not mandated by law. Providing free Internet access to circuit court records has been the decision/choice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court and the Director of State Courts in terms of how they choose to provide and manage their records.

Currently, the Clerk of Circuit Court, as the official record custodian of court records, enters data into the CCAP case management system at the county level about any cases filed in that county. The data entered at the county level is reflected in WCCA. WCCA is, in effect, a mirror image of what is happening to the paper file of the case for all cases open for public inspection.

This bill requires the courts to "mask" certain data and records so that the information is removed from WCCA but the Clerk of Circuit Court would continue to maintain the paper case file and the electronic record in their CCAP case management system, as under current practice. In order to "mask" this data, CCAP will be required to perform substantial reprogramming to provide for the separate treatment for the case types included in the bill.

In order to meet the requirements of this bill, it will be necessary to create a new process to ensure the WCCA website is up-to-date and consistent with circuit court records and statutory rules. This will involve the time of both computer programmers and CCAP analysts to develop, test, implement and support the new process. The system will also require annual support and maintenance work of programmers and analysts.

It is difficult to predict the exact number of programmer and analyst hours that will be required by the provisions of this bill. For comparison purposes, a project to implement 2011 Act 270 affecting electronic access to confidential juvenile court records, cost the court system \$90,000.

In addition, adoption of this bill is likely to increase the workload of the Clerks of Circuit Court staff. Case files "masked" from WCCA will still be available at the Clerks office. It is anticipated that Clerks offices will receive increased inquiries and requests for records, requiring additional staff time than is currently necessary. An exact estimate is not possible with the data available. Any additional costs would be borne by the counties, which provide funding for the Clerk of Courts offices.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications