

Fiscal Estimate - 2013 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 13-2444/1	Introduction Number SB-211	
Description Creating an enhanced penalty for harassing, intimidating, or recklessly endangering a law enforcement officer, a fire fighter, an emergency medical technician, a first responder, or an ambulance driver, and providing a penalty		
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input 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 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)		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 6/17/2013

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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 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.

The bill provides a forfeiture up to \$10,000 for a person who harasses or intimidates a public employees including, but not limited to, a law enforcement officer, emergency health care provider, and revenue agent. A person who recklessly endangers any of the specified public employees is guilty of a Class F felony, except that if the circumstances demonstrated an utter disregard for human life then they are guilty of a Class E felony and may be fined up to \$50,000, imprisoned up to 15 years or both. The greater penalties apply if the public employee was acting in their official capacity when the crime occurred and the person knew or should have known that the victim was a public employee.

It is possible that given the increased penalties and expanded class of protected employees, the SPD will see an increase in the number of cases in which it provides representation. We are unable, however, to quantify the number of cases that might occur due to the provisions in the bill. The SPD's average cost to provide representation with a private bar attorney in a felony case was \$576.73 in fiscal year 2012.

This bill could also have a fiscal impact on counties. 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.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications