



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 1/26/2016

LRB Number	15-2840/1	Introduction Number	AB-0710	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Stipends for the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department to pay stipends to Wisconsin Council on Mental Health members and appointees using non-GPR funding. The Council on Mental Health advises the Governor, Legislature, and DHS on allocating the state's Mental Health Block Grant funds. As of July 2015, seventeen members serve on the council, with eight seats vacant. An additional seventeen individuals serve on council committees. The state must operate the council to receive federal Mental Health Block Grant funding.

Under current law, the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health council members and committee appointees do not receive compensation for days of council service, though they receive reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses, such as travel costs, incurred while performing their duties for the council. The Mental Health Block Grant allows for stipends to be provided to council members, so long as they act as a public or non-profit private entity, and all administrative costs are kept under 5 percent of the grant's funds, or \$682,200 PRF.

The Wisconsin Council on Mental Health advises the Governor, Legislature, and DHS on how to allocate the state's Mental Health Block Grant funds. As of July 2015, seventeen members serve on the council, with eight seats vacant. An additional seventeen individuals serve on council committees. The council is mandated by the federal government in order to receive the federal Mental Health Block Grant.

The bill provides the Department the authority, in consultation with the council, to set the amount of the stipend. The Mental Health Council or its committees meet 46 times annually for an average time of 146 total hours. If the Department assumes all 34 individuals serving the council are eligible for stipends, and the stipends are \$100 per meeting, the stipends will cost \$156,400 PRF.

The bill does not allow for administrative costs associated with tracking, monitoring, documenting, and processing the stipend payments. The Department should be able to absorb these tasks with current staff levels.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications