

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 10/13/2015

LRB Number	15-3396/1	Introduction Number	SB-306	Estimate Type	Original
Description Multiple county health departments					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law regarding multiple county health departments, two or more county boards may establish a multiple county health department. The local health board of every multiple county health department must annually prepare a budget of its proposed expenditures for the upcoming fiscal year and determine the proportionate cost to each participating county on the basis of equalized valuation. If a county chooses to withdraw from the multiple county health department, it may do so at any time for any reason by giving written notice to its county board of health and the county boards of all other participating counties.

Under SB 306, multiple county health departments may establish an initial minimum period of five years, during which a participating county may withdraw only if withdrawal is necessary to meet statutory requirements for a level I health department. The bill also changes the basis of determining the proportionate costs to participating counties, instead requiring that the local health board determine the proportionate contribution from each participating county on a per capita basis.

The bill will not have a fiscal impact on the state Department of Health Services, nor does it result in a net change in local government costs. However, it will affect the cost of operations for local health departments that choose to create multiple county health departments. For instance, if Ozaukee County and Washington County were to create a multiple county health department under current statutes, the budget would be produced with Ozaukee covering 45.1% and Washington covering 54.9% of the expenses. However, under the proposed bill, Ozaukee County would be responsible for only 39.6% of expenses while Washington County would be responsible for 60.4%. The only multiple county health department that currently exists, for Menominee and Shawano Counties, would see costs shift from 9.8% and 90.1% to 8.8% and 91.2% respectively. This estimate does not take into account potential savings or public health benefits accrued from participating in a multiple county health department.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications