

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 8/23/2017

LRB Number	17-2486/1	Introduction Number	AB-0400	Estimate Type	Original
Description patronizing a prostitute and providing a criminal penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill changes the criminal penalty for patronizing a prostitute from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class I felony, if the person had previously been convicted of the same crime at least two other times.

To determine the impact on required judicial resources, we have relied on the Wisconsin Judicial Workload Assessment 2016, submitted to the Director of State Courts by the National Center for State Courts. For this study, all Wisconsin judges and court commissioners participated in a time study designed to measure the time currently spent processing different types of cases from initial filing to final resolution. According to the study, felony cases took 197 minutes of judicial time. For purposes of comparison, the same study found misdemeanor cases took 39 minutes of judicial time.

It is impossible to predict how many persons would be charged with a felony rather than a misdemeanor under the provisions of this bill. As indicated, for each such case, the amount of judicial time involved would be about five times as great as under current law (where the offense is a misdemeanor).

Lengthier court proceedings also require additional court reporter, court staff and juror time. These costs are borne by both the state and the county. An accurate estimate of the additional costs of this proposal, and how those costs will be divided between the state and the counties, is impossible with the data available.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications