

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 11/3/2017

LRB Number	17-2702/1	Introduction Number	AB-0481	Estimate Type	Original
Description creating family treatment court and juvenile treatment court grant programs in the Department of Children and Families					

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.

This bill creates a family treatment court grant program under the Children's Code and a juvenile treatment court grant program under the Juvenile Justice Code, each of which is to be administered by the Department of Children and Families and operated within the court assigned to exercise jurisdiction under the Children's Code or Juvenile Justice Code (collectively, "juvenile court").

Under the family treatment court grant program, DCF makes grants available to counties or Indian tribes that enable them to establish and operate programs to develop procedures that screen, assess, and provide dispositional alternatives for parents whose children have come under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court due to parental problems related to mental illness or substance abuse. Under the juvenile treatment court grant program, DCF similarly makes grants available to counties or Indian tribes to enable them to establish and operate programs to develop procedures that screen, assess, and provide dispositional alternatives for juveniles who have problems related to mental illness or substance abuse.

The grant funded programs created by the bill may reduce the length of some cases in which the SPD provides representation. This may decrease generate some savings, though it is not possible to estimate the amount.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications