

Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 17-6079/1	Introduction Number SB-887	
Description legislative power and duties, state agency and authority composition and operations, administrative rule-making process, federal government waivers and approvals, unemployment insurance work search and registration requirements, and making an appropriation		
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 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 type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ETF 12/6/2018

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill makes the following changes that will affect the Department of Employee Trust Funds:

•Group Insurance Board Membership Changes

Increases the size of the Group Insurance Board by four members. The new members are appointed, respectively, by the speaker of the assembly, the assembly minority leader, the senate majority leader, and the senate minority leader. The bill also provides that the six members appointed by the governor for two-year terms are subject to senate confirmation.

The Department should be able to absorb the costs of these changes using existing budget authority.

•“Guidance Documents” Requirements

The bill creates a definition for guidance documents and a process, similar to the process for administrative rules, for the approval of guidance documents. Examples of documents produced by ETF that may fit under the definition of “guidance document” include the WRS Administration Manual, Employer Bulletins, and many of the pamphlets ETF offers to our members and employers providing explanations of the various benefit programs. The bill indicates that agencies would have six months to ensure that any materials meeting the definition of “guidance document” contained a certification by the Secretary. Thereafter, any newly-adopted materials would have to go through the administrative process involved in producing a “guidance document,” including offering a public comment period. ETF has approximately 1500 publications. Each of those would have to be reviewed to determine whether they met the definition of “guidance document.”

Additionally, in the bill, guidance documents would not provide the authority for implementing or enforcing a standard, requirement, or threshold. ETF remains in regular contact with our participating employers and members, who often contact ETF’s call center with questions about when or how to enroll a new employee, or what payment amounts to report as WRS earnings. Much of that information is available in the WRS Administration Manual or through Employer Bulletins. ETF and employers rely on that information for everyday operations, and they are updated, or in the case of Employer Bulletins, issued frequently based on employer need.

The Department is unable to determine a fiscal estimation at this time, but the costs associated with these changes are expected to be significant.

•Legal Citation Requirement for Agency Publications

The bill requires state agencies to identify the applicable provision of state or federal law that support any statement or interpretation of law in any print publication, or publication on the agency’s website. ETF offers a great deal of written and electronic information to our members and employers explaining our various benefit programs. Requiring legal citations in each of them would be time-consuming and result in materials that were longer and more difficult to understand.

The Department is unable to determine a fiscal estimation at this time, but the costs associated with these changes are expected to be significant.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications