

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
ALTC 10/23/2019

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| LRB Number | 19-1624/1 | Introduction Number | AB-0552 | Estimate Type | Original |
| Description permitting certain individuals to make requests for medication for the purpose of ending their lives and providing a penalty | | | | | |

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Ombudsman staff of the Board on Aging and Long Term Care would be required by 2019 AB 552 to witness the signature of residents of certain long-term care facilities who wish to execute a request for medication for the purpose of ending the requestor's life according to the requirements and processes specified by the bill. Ombudsmen would also be required to act as advocates for the resident making the request. Advocacy services of the Ombudsmen are currently available under any circumstance to individuals age 60 and over that reside in a nursing home or community based residential facility upon request of the resident or other person on their behalf. Ombudsman advocacy services are delivered only with the consent and agreement of the resident or authorized legal decision-maker. It is impossible to determine whether a resident who is contemplating making use of the option presented by this bill would, under other circumstances, have requested the advocacy services of an Ombudsman.

This bill would add an indeterminate number of cases and hours to the Ombudsmen's caseload. While it could be assumed that not a great many persons would pursue the option presented by the bill, it could also be assumed that a certain number will. Each occasion will require an Ombudsman to expend an indefinite amount of time. The cost of an hour of Ombudsman's time, including wages and benefits is \$32.64 per hour. Additionally, the total cost must include the associated travel costs which will vary depending on the distance from the Ombudsman's office to the location of the individual who will be receiving advocacy services.

Federal authority for the Board on Aging Long Term Care, which can be found in part in 45 CFR § 1324, requires establishing policies and procedures regarding conflicts of interest. As directed, the Board on Aging and Long Term Care has developed conflict of interest policies and procedures which includes a prohibition that representatives of the office shall not serve as a witness on legal documents. Under Wis. Stat. § 16.009, the Board on Aging Long Term Care Ombudsman Program only has authority to advocate for individuals age 60 and over.

The Board on Aging and Long Term Care serves approximately 120,500 clients, including 90,000 persons living in licensed settings. The Board has 17 Regional Ombudsmen to serve 72 counties. Given the unknown number of persons who would pursue this option, the increased time and travel commitment by the Board on Aging and Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is not fully determinable.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Impossible to accurately determine at this time.