

Fiscal Estimate - 2019 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 19-4419/1	Introduction Number SB-517
Description the possession of a firearm by a person who has committed a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence or by a fugitive from justice and providing a penalty	
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 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 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 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 20.550	
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Date 10/29/2019	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
SPD 10/29/2019

LRB Number 19-4419/1	Introduction Number SB-517	Estimate Type Original
Description the possession of a firearm by a person who has committed a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence or by a fugitive from justice and providing a penalty		

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 proceedings. The SPD plays a major 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 expands the scope of the felony offense for unlawful possession of a firearm. The bill prohibits possession of a firearm by anyone convicted of a misdemeanor offense involving domestic violence. Thus, persons convicted of such a misdemeanor are subject in the future to prosecution for the felony offense of unauthorized possession of a firearm. The SPD's average cost per felony appointed to private bar attorneys was \$540.67 for fiscal year 2018.

Because probation or prison can be ordered upon conviction for felony crimes, the bill would indirectly lead to additional cases in which the Department of Corrections (DOC) would seek to revoke probation or extended supervision. The SPD provides representation in proceedings commenced by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to revoke supervision. Thus, the bill would indirectly increase the number of cases in which the SPD appoints attorneys in revocation proceedings. The average cost during fiscal year 2018 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$294.73.

The SPD would incur additional costs under this bill. Because of the annual caseloads for staff attorney positions specified for budgeting purposes under § 977.08(5), Stats., it would be more cost effective to add staff attorney positions if a significant number of SPD cases resulted from this provision of the bill.

This bill could also have a fiscal impact on counties. There are some defendants who, despite exceeding the SPD's statutory financial guidelines, are constitutionally eligible for appointment of counsel because it would be a substantial hardship for them to retain an attorney. The court is required to appoint counsel at county expense for these defendants. Thus, the counties would experience increased costs attributable to the higher classification of criminal charges resulting from this bill. The counties could also incur additional costs associated with incarceration of defendants, pending trial (or pending completion of revocation process) and after sentencing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications