

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 21-1132/1	Introduction Number AB-0001
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Description
 state government actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority

Fiscal Effect

State:

<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		

Local:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs		
<input 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"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <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	
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

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	

Agency/Prepared By DOC/ Michael Slana (608) 240-5414	Authorized Signature Paulina De Haan (608) 240-5056	Date 1/15/2021
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 1/15/2021

LRB Number	21-1132/1	Introduction Number	AB-0001	Estimate Type	Original
Description state government actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic, extending the time limit for emergency rule procedures, providing an exemption from emergency rule procedures, and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, if an individual dies while he or she is in the legal custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and confined to a correctional facility located in this state, an autopsy on the deceased individual must be performed. Under this bill, until the conclusion of a national emergency declared by the U.S. President in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus, if an individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 dies, the coroner or medical examiner may perform a limited examination of the deceased individual instead of a full autopsy. These changes were enacted in 2019 Wisconsin Act 185, but applied only during the state of emergency related to public health declared on March 12, 2020.

Counties conduct autopsies of deceased persons who had been in DOC's care, and DOC has no ability to dictate the scope of those autopsies. The cost difference for DOC between a full autopsy and a limited external exam varies by county: for example, in Dodge County, the difference is \$1,135, while in Winnebago County, the difference is approximately \$850. Because counties bill DOC for the cost of doing autopsies for deceased persons in our (DOC's) care (PIOC), if a county chose to do a limited autopsy, DOC would be billed a lesser amount than would be the case currently. Because DOC cannot predict whether any autopsy practices will change were this bill to become law, DOC is unable to estimate the potential cost avoidance, if any, that may result from this provision.

Counties that operate their own local detention facilities have required full autopsies of any individuals in their care who have died, and DOC does not anticipate this would change even if this provision became law. Therefore, DOC does not anticipate there would be any fiscal impact on local governments from this provision.

The bill also authorizes dentists to administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Under current law, generally, vaccines may be administered only by physicians, physician assistants, nurses, pharmacists, and certain pharmacy students. To administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines under the bill, a dentist must complete 12 hours of training on vaccine storage, protocols, administration technique, emergency procedures, and record keeping and must have in effect liability insurance meeting certain requirements.

If this provision became law, and if DOC determined that some or all of its dentists needed to be trained to assist with administering vaccinations, DOC may incur costs related to training dentists. This may include the cost of overtime pay for dentists, if it is not possible to schedule their vaccination training around dental appointments. As of 1/2/21, the average hourly pay rate for DOC's filled FTE dentist positions is \$76.84. Because DOC cannot predict whether it would need to make use of this provision, DOC cannot estimate the number of dentists that would be trained, nor can it predict the extent to which it would need to use overtime to avoid conflicts with PIOC dental appointments. Therefore, DOC cannot estimate the potential cost increase, if any, that may result from this provision.

Only a few counties have their own dentist in their local detention facilities, with most contracting out dental services. As such, DOC anticipates there would be minimal, if any, fiscal impacts on local governments from the cost of training their dentists to administer vaccines.

This bill has various school and education-related provisions, which DOC does not anticipate will have a fiscal impact on state or local governments.

This bill also prohibits an employer from requiring an individual to receive a vaccine against the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus (COVID-19) or show evidence of having received such a vaccine. DOC does not anticipate requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for employees or PIOC. Rather, vaccinations will be made available, offered, and encouraged to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications