

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:

No State Fiscal Effect
 Indeterminate

<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease 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 type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs
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Local:

No Local Government Costs
 Indeterminate

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	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
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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 ETF/ Tama Hunter (608) 267-0908	Authorized Signature Pam Henning (608) 267-2929	Date 1/6/2021
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

ETF 1/6/2021

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

Generally, the bill allows a WRS annuitant who is hired for a critical position during the period of a national emergency declared by the U.S. president in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus and ending when the national emergency is no longer in effect or 60 days after the effective date of the bill, whichever is earlier, to return to work and elect to not suspend their annuity for the duration of the public health emergency. The employee may not have an agreement with any WRS employer to return to work or enter into a contract to provide employee services for the employer.

Additionally, the bill reduces the break-in-service requirement from 75 days to 15 days for a WRS annuitant who is hired for a critical position during the period of a national emergency declared by the U.S. president in response to the 2019 novel coronavirus and ending when the national emergency is no longer in effect or 60 days after the effective date of the bill, whichever is earlier.

Administrative costs for the Department of Employee Trust Funds may be incurred related to information technology system changes, staff training, employer training, transaction processing and the revision of publications. The Department should be able to absorb these costs.

The Department is not able to determine the fiscal impact of the bill on local governments.

The bill also includes the following provisions related to health insurance coverage under the Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP):

Requires health plans to provide coverage of testing and vaccines of COVID-19 without imposing any copayment or coinsurance. The requirement is applicable until the conclusion of a national emergency declared by the U.S. President in response to COVID-19 or until June 30, 2021, whichever is earlier.

Prohibits requiring prior authorization for early refills of a prescription drug or otherwise restricting the period of time in which a prescription drug may be refilled and from imposing a limit on the quantity of prescription drugs that may be obtained if the quantity is no more than a 90-day supply. These prohibitions do not apply if the prescription drug is a controlled substance. The prohibition is applicable until the conclusion of a national emergency declared by the U.S. President in response to COVID-19 or until June 30, 2021, whichever is earlier.

Prohibits health plans from requiring a member to pay more for a service, treatment, or supply provided by an out-of-network provider than the member would have to pay if the services were provided in-network. This prohibition applies to services received related to COVID-19 and applies if the member saw an out-of-network provider because a participating provider was not available. The prohibition is applicable until the conclusion of a national emergency declared by the U.S. President in response to COVID-19 or until June 30, 2021, whichever is earlier.

The GHIP is a fully insured group health plan. The fiscal effect of these mandates is expected to be minimal. The State's pharmacy benefit program is self-insured. There may be increased costs related to extended refills of prescription specialty medication.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications