

Fiscal Estimate - 2021 Session

☒ Original ☐ Updated ☐ Corrected ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number 21-5313/1	Introduction Number SB-731
Description school mental health and pupil wellness aid, funding for the University of Wisconsin System, and making an appropriation	
Fiscal Effect State: <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</div><input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs</div></div> Local: <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div></div></div><div style="width: 33%;"><div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"><div>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div><div>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory</div></div></div><div style="width: 33%;">5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts</div><div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Cities</div></div></div></div>	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 12/7/2021

LRB Number	21-5313/1	Introduction Number	SB-731	Estimate Type	Original
Description school mental health and pupil wellness aid, funding for the University of Wisconsin System, and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill changes the types of expenditures that are eligible for reimbursement under the state categorical aid program related to pupil mental health.

Under current law, the Department of Public Instruction must make payments to school districts, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in parental choice programs (local education agency) that increased the amount they spent to employ, hire, or retain social workers. Under current law, DPI first pays each eligible local education agency 50 percent of the amount by which the eligible local education agency increased its expenditures for social workers in the preceding school year over the amount it expended in the school year immediately preceding the preceding school year. If, after making those payments, there is money remaining in the appropriation account for that aid program, DPI makes additional payments to eligible local education agencies. The amount of those additional payments is determined based on the amount remaining in the appropriation account and the amount spent by eligible local education agencies to employ, hire, and retain social workers during the previous school year.

The bill expands eligibility for the payments under the aid program to include spending on school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and school nurses (pupil services professionals). The bill also eliminates the two tier reimbursement structure of the aid program and eliminates the requirement that a local education agency is eligible for the aid only if the local education agency increased its spending. Under the bill, any local education agency that made expenditures to employ, hire, or retain pupil services professionals during the previous school year is eligible for reimbursement under the aid program.

The bill also increases DPI's existing GRP appropriation in the Mental Health and Pupil Wellness Aid program by \$16,500,000 for fiscal year 2021-22 and by \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2022-23. If the appropriation in any fiscal year is insufficient to pay the full amount of aid, the state superintendent shall prorate the aid payments among eligible local education agencies.

State: This bill increases DPI's exiting GPR appropriations by \$16,500,000 for fiscal year 2021-22 and by \$18,000,000 for fiscal year 2022-23. Since no additional funding was provided to administer the expanded program, any additional costs would need to be absorbed within DPI's exiting budget.

Local: This bill would increase revenues to all local education agency that made expenditures to employ, hire, or retain pupil services professionals during the previous school year. Since the amount of eligible expenditures would vary among local education agencies, the reimbursement amounts provided would vary as well.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications