

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOA 2/20/2024

LRB Number	23-5037/1	Introduction Number	AB-1004	Estimate Type	Original
Description requiring local governments to designate an individual for consultation required under a federal program regarding refugee resettlement and assistance					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2023 Assembly Bill 1004 (AB-1004) would create s. 66.0443, Wis. Stats., entitled "local consultation for refugee settlement and assistance" which outlines procedures which local units of government must follow in the event an employee or officer contacts or is contacted by the federal government or a private nonprofit voluntary agency acting under 8 USC 1522 regarding the proposed placement of refugees in the local governmental unit.

The employee or officer would be required to submit a written report of the contact, including copies of any documentation received, to the chief elected official and clerk of the local governmental unit within 7 days of the initial contact. Within 10 days of receiving that report, a chief elected official would be required to provide a written notification to the chief elected official and clerk of every local governmental unit located, entirely or partially, within a 100-mile radius of the originating governmental unit.

Each local governmental unit receiving such a notice would then be required, within 30 days, to meet internally and to include on the agenda and allow for public comment on the fact of the notification. They must also designate by a majority quorum vote an employee or officer to serve as the representative for the governmental unit to consult with the federal government or nonprofit agency regarding refugee resettlement and assistance, having the clerk of the unit notify the relevant county board chairperson of this designation.

The county board chairperson would then be required, at the cost of the county, to convene a meeting between 30 and 45 days after the local governmental unit's contact of neighboring municipalities, at which designees (collectively titled the "county refugee resettlement committee" under the bill) would discuss the proposed placement of refugees, inviting representatives of the federal government or the nonprofit voluntary agency as appropriate.

Within 30 days of the initial committee meeting, the committee would be required to hold a public hearing regarding the proposed placement of refugees, publishing a class 1 notice in newspapers within a 100-mile radius of the originating governmental unit, as well as providing notice at least 10 days before the meeting to relevant news media. Following this hearing, the committee shall make a recommendation to the originating local government unit as to the proposed refugee placement.

Once a plan relating to the proposed refugee placement has been established, the designees must submit a written report to their respective local governmental unit within 7 business days.

Lastly, the bill permits taxpayers of local governmental units to commence legal action if an elected official or governing body fails to comply with the process outlined above.

The fiscal impact to local governmental units of the provision of this bill is indeterminate. However, it is anticipated that administrative costs may be incurred while local governmental units carry out the outlined procedure as they are explicitly required to bear the cost of convening and organizing the county refugee resettlement committee.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications