

Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 23-2281/1	Introduction Number AB-0285
Description exempting from taxation the pension benefits of certain federal employees	
Fiscal Effect	
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <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 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	
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	
Agency/Prepared By DOR/ Bradley Caruth (608) 261-8984	Authorized Signature Michael Oakleaf (608) 261-5173
Date 5/22/2023	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOR 5/22/2023

LRB Number	23-2281/1	Introduction Number	AB-0285	Estimate Type	Original
Description exempting from taxation the pension benefits of certain federal employees					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current state law, social security benefits are exempt from Wisconsin income tax. Moreover, pensions received by persons who were members of or retired from Milwaukee City and county retirement funds, the state teachers' retirement fund, and the federal civil service retirement system (CSRS) prior to January 1, 1964 are exempt from Wisconsin income tax. In addition, veterans' pensions are exempt from Wisconsin income tax.

Wisconsin also exempts up to \$5,000 of payments or distributions from a qualified retirement plan or individual retirement account (IRA) if the claimant is at least 65 years of age and the claimant has federal adjusted gross income of less than \$15,000 in the year to which the claim relates (\$30,000 for married joint filers).

Under federal law, until 1984, employment by the federal government was covered under CSRS and not by social security. In 1984, the federal government created the Federal Employees Retirement System (FERS). Federal employees who began working for the federal government in 1984 or later are covered by FERS instead of CSRS. Some federal employees who had been covered by CSRS switched to FERS, and some stayed in CSRS. Work under FERS is covered by social security. Federal employees who remained in CSRS after 1983 are not covered by social security.

This bill provides a new exemption for payments received from CSRS, to the extent that such payments are not already exempt. The exemption is limited to no more than \$8,000 for 2023, but not capped for 2024 and thereafter.

According to a January 2020 Congressional Research Service report on the federal employees' retirement system, Wisconsin had 29,443 annuitants in FY18. Moreover, about 66.6% of annuitants were covered by CSRS, suggesting about 19,609 CSRS annuitants. Based on a simulation of individuals with federal civil service retirement income, adjusted for existing exclusions and FERS members, the bill will reduce revenue by approximately \$5.3 million in fiscal year 2024 and \$19.4 million annually beginning in fiscal year 2025.

Because this bill reduces tax revenue, it may impact the state's maintenance of effort requirement under the American Rescue Plan Act. The Dept of Administration should review this bill for this specific purpose to provide further clarity on the matter.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2023 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

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Description exempting from taxation the pension benefits of certain federal employees		
I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):		
II. Annualized Costs:		
	Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
	Increased Costs Decreased Costs	
A. State Costs by Category		
State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$	\$
(FTE Position Changes)		
State Operations - Other Costs		
Local Assistance		
Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$	\$
B. State Costs by Source of Funds		
GPR		
FED		
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S		
III. State Revenues - Complete this only when proposal will increase or decrease state revenues (e.g., tax increase, decrease in license fee, etc.)		
	Increased Rev	Decreased Rev
GPR Taxes	\$	\$-19,400,000
GPR Earned		
FED		
PRO/PRS		
SEG/SEG-S		
TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$-19,400,000
NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT		
	<u>State</u>	<u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$-19,400,000	\$
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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