

### Fiscal Estimate - 2023 Session

Original     
  Updated     
  Corrected     
  Supplemental

LRB Number <b>23-1411/1</b>	Introduction Number <b>AB-0462</b>
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**Description**  
 creating an immersive work opportunity program for persons incarcerated in the state prisons

**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	3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase 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
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory	

<b>Fund Sources Affected</b>	<b>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS	

<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>	<b>Authorized Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
DOC/ Craig Vruwink (608) 240-5415	Anna Neal (608) 228-1331	10/23/2023

## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 10/23/2023

LRB Number	23-1411/1	Introduction Number	AB-0462	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> creating an immersive work opportunity program for persons incarcerated in the state prisons					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

2017 Wisconsin Act 89 allows PIOCs confined or detained in a county jail, a county house of corrections, or a tribal jail under a Department of Corrections (DOC) contract to be granted the privilege of leaving the facility to participate in certain employment-related activities. Qualified employment-related activities include seeking employment, engaging in employment training, working, performing community service work, attending an educational institution, or any other activity designated in the contract between the facility and DOC.

This bill would expand work release opportunities for persons in our care (PIOCs) nearing release by creating an immersive work opportunity program allowing them to work for select employers at market wage. To be eligible, PIOC: 1) must have been sentenced to a bifurcated sentence and be within six months of his or her release to extended supervision; 2) be of low or moderate security risk and have a behavioral history while incarcerated that indicates that he or she will not be a danger to the community while released for work; and 3) have previously obtained a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma or equivalent general education development credential. In contrast with 2017 Act 89, this proposal would allow participants to be housed in either county or Division of Adult Institution (DAI) facilities. The bill does not indicate if the intent would be to expand eligibility of work release to additional security classifications - currently, only PIOC with a minimum community security classification are eligible for work release and the Department has security concerns about expanding work release to medium security classified individuals.

DOC currently operates the Windows to Work (WTW) program through a partnership with the Department of Workforce Development. All 11 of Wisconsin's Workforce Development Boards provide, or subcontract to provide a program at DOC institutions or county jail facilities where participants can enroll in programming prior to release that then follows up for a year post-release. With funding approved in 2023 Act 19, the WTW program is budgeted for approximately \$2.1 Million in both FY24 and FY25. In FY22, WTW averaged 338 daily participants and in FY23 WTW averaged 412 daily participants.

DOC also operates the Bureau of Correctional Enterprises (BCE) transition program - designed to help PIOC workers for BCE capitalize on their skills and work experience acquired during incarceration and aid in employment readiness for post-incarceration. The Program serves PIOC returning to all 72 Wisconsin counties. In FY23, BCE Transition enrolled 345 participants.

The bill directs DOC to consider a person's appropriateness for the program based on: an applicant's work history and job skills; an applicant's level of education; an applicant's behavioral history; an applicant's history of mental health challenges, substance abuse issues, or anger management needs; and proximity of the work site to the applicant's crime victim. To administer this program, the Department will likely require 1.00 FTE position in the Reentry unit, at an estimated annual cost of \$100,000 GPR. Until the Department is able to establish guidelines around these measures, the DOC can only estimate the number of PIOC eligible for immersive work release.

Should the Department use contract beds, any costs savings under an immersive work program would be realized by a reduction in cost from fewer PIOC in DAI facilities. Cost savings would be generated through a decreased need for "variable" funding for healthcare, food, and variable non-food (such as clothing, toiletries, linens) of approximately \$10,100 annually per PIOC based on FY23 costs. Should the Department utilize additional contract beds outside its budgeted capacity, the cost is \$18,800 annually.

Without knowing how many PIOC would be eligible for an immersive work program, or where they would be housed, it is not possible to calculate the fiscal impact of this proposed legislation.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications