

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 2/13/2023

LRB Number	23-1419/1	Introduction Number	AB-0006	Estimate Type	Original
Description uniform course numbering and the transfer of course credits among technical colleges and University of Wisconsin System schools, and eliminating certain restrictions on the respective educational roles of the University of Wisconsin System and the Technical College System					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board and the University of Wisconsin System (UWS) Board of Regents to implement a universal course numbering and credit transfer system under which credits for courses with the same universal course number are automatically transferable among UWS institutions and technical colleges. The bill requires the universal course numbering and credit transfer system to be implemented within 5 years.

To implement a universal course numbering and credit transfer system within 5 years, significant IT system upgrades are needed at the WTCS System Office and at each of the 16 WTCS colleges. One-time state costs for the WTCS System Office portion of the IT system upgrades are estimated at \$1.04 million and one-time local costs for the IT system upgrades at all 16 technical colleges are estimated at \$13.18 million. These figures assume that each college's existing IT system can accommodate needed upgrades without the need to replace an entire IT system.

In addition to the IT costs related to the necessary system upgrades, the implementation of a universal course numbering and credit transfer system will require personnel to coordinate and oversee the transition to the new system. Examples of this work includes: 1) identifying equivalent courses that would share the course number among all WTCS and UWS institutions; 2) creating the alpha and/or numeric system that would generate the uniform course number and identify a course as equivalent and transferable; 3) adding the new uniform course number to WTCS colleges' websites, printed course catalogs and marketing materials; and 4) revising WTCS articulation and transfer agreements between WTCS colleges and private and public institutions of higher education. These additional duties will increase personnel workload at each of the 16 colleges and require a lead position at the WTCS System Office to coordinate and oversee the implementation. This work cannot be absorbed within current positions at the WTCS System Office and will require 1.0 FTE GPR and \$110,000 annually. The related personnel costs at each technical college will vary and are indeterminate.

The bill also repeals s. 36.31(1) Wis. Stats., which requires the UWS Board of Regents to approve WTCS's collegiate transfer offerings beyond those offered in 1972-73 and the WTCS Board to approve UWS semi-professional or skilled-trade occupational offerings beyond those available in 1972-73. WTCS does not anticipate any additional costs related to this provision that cannot be absorbed within the existing WTCS budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

After the initial IT upgrades and system implementation are complete, there will be ongoing costs associated with IT system maintenance and personnel needed to continually evaluate and maintain the currency of the new system. WTCS System Office will continue to require a dedicated position to coordinate with WTCS colleges and UWS institutions to identify, evaluate, and assign new courses to a uniform course number; remove discontinued courses from the system; and coordinate the numbering of non-transferable courses among the participating institutions to avoid duplication and confusion within the course numbering system. Similarly, WTCS colleges will have ongoing costs associated with the IT system maintenance and personnel needed to maintain the currency of the system and coordinate with the WTCS System Office and UWS institutions to identify and evaluate new courses for equivalency and

transferability. The total ongoing costs at the technical colleges will vary by college and are indeterminate.

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2023 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

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Description
 uniform course numbering and the transfer of course credits among technical colleges and University of Wisconsin System schools, and eliminating certain restrictions on the respective educational roles of the University of Wisconsin System and the Technical College System

I. One-time Costs or Revenue Impacts for State and/or Local Government (do not include in annualized fiscal effect):

State one-time costs: \$1.04 million + local one-time costs: \$13.18 million = \$14.22 million total one-time costs.

II. Annualized Costs:	Annualized Fiscal Impact on funds from:	
	Increased Costs	Decreased Costs

A. State Costs by Category			
	State Operations - Salaries and Fringes	\$110,000	\$
	(FTE Position Changes)	(1.0 FTE)	
	State Operations - Other Costs		
	Local Assistance		
	Aids to Individuals or Organizations		
	TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$110,000	\$

B. State Costs by Source of Funds			
	GPR	110,000	
	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	\$	\$
	GPR Earned		
	FED		
	PRO/PRS		
	SEG/SEG-S		
	TOTAL State Revenues	\$	\$

NET ANNUALIZED FISCAL IMPACT		
	State	Local
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$110,000	\$
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$	\$

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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