

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 3/17/2025

LRB Number	25-0452/1	Introduction Number	AB-0129	Estimate Type	Original
Description providing safe drinking water in public and private schools					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill would require the governing body of each public and private school (schools) in this state to develop a drinking water management plan for the private or public school; the bill specifies components to be included in the water management plan.

Under the bill, if water testing under a drinking water management plan indicates lead at a concentration that exceeds the criteria in the bill, schools would be required to take certain actions, including checking water filters, ensuring that the filtered bottle-filling station or faucet is properly installed, and retesting the filtered water. Lead concentrations above a certain level would require schools to immediately shut off the water outlet, post a sign stating that the water outlet is shut off due to the high concentration of lead, PFOA, or PFOS, whichever applies, replace the water filters, and retest the water.

The bill requires schools to install filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets in accordance with the school's drinking water management plan, and to shut off all water outlets that provide water for human consumption that are not filtered bottle-filling stations or filtered faucets (by August 1, 2027). Beginning approximately 15 months after the bill becomes law, the bill prohibits the installation of a drinking fountain that is not a filtered bottle-filling station in a public or private school.

The bill requires DPI to develop a drinking water management plan template, to make annual training available related to water sampling and testing protocols and other activities relevant to complying with the requirements created in the bill, and to provide various information related to filtered bottle-filling stations, filtered faucets, and filter cartridges. The bill also authorizes DPI to award grants to schools to assist with the costs of complying with the requirements in the bill. The "Safe drinking water; grants" appropriation would be funded with GPR. Under the bill, the annual appropriation has no budget authority in FY26 or FY27. Instead, the bill requires DPI to submit a request for supplemental funding to the Joint Committee on Finance (JCF) under Wis. Stat. sec. 13.10, to release GPR funding for purposes of funding the new grant program.

State impact: DPI-additional costs (operations). State-indeterminate; potential for additional expenditures (aids/local assistance).

This would be a new responsibility for the department. As such, it would require DPI to hire an individual with the requisite knowledge of drinking water management, water sampling and testing protocols, and information about filtered bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets, as well as the ability to establish and administer a new grant program.

A 1.0 FTE position in a classification that could perform this type of work (Education Consultant or School Administration Consultant) is estimated to cost up to \$137,500 GPR annually for salary and fringe benefits, related fixed costs, and IT / desktop support (based on median hourly rate for Ed/School Admin Consultant positions). DPI could not absorb this cost within base resources and would also require additional position authority to carry out the work required under the bill.

DPI would have to estimate the amount for grants to schools before making a request to the JCF to release funds based on information gathered from schools. That amount cannot accurately be projected at this time.

Local Impact: Indeterminate; potential for additional costs and additional revenue (grants).

The bill creates several new responsibilities for schools related to drinking water management that presumably would require additional resources (school staff and/or contracted services, including the installation of filtered water bottle-filling stations and filtered faucets).

DPI cannot project those costs at this time, as it would require substantial information gathering from schools. While the grant program created under the bill is intended to offset those costs to schools, total grant eligibility,

and the amount the JCF would release, are unknown; thus, schools may incur costs for which they are not fully reimbursed by the state, meaning a portion of the additional costs would have to be absorbed within schools' base resources.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Fiscal Estimate Worksheet - 2025 Session

Detailed Estimate of Annual Fiscal Effect

☒ Original
 ☐ Updated
 ☐ Corrected
 ☐ Supplemental

LRB Number 25-0452/1	Introduction Number AB-0129
Description providing safe drinking water in public and private schools	
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	\$120,000
(FTE Position Changes)	(1.0 FTE)
State Operations - Other Costs	17,500
Local Assistance	
Aids to Individuals or Organizations	
TOTAL State Costs by Category	\$137,500
B. State Costs by Source of Funds	
GPR	137,500
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	
	<u>State</u> <u>Local</u>
NET CHANGE IN COSTS	\$137,500
NET CHANGE IN REVENUE	\$
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature
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	Date
	3/17/2025