

## Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

☒ Original      ☐ Updated      ☐ Corrected      ☐ Supplemental

<b>LRB Number</b> <b>25-3229/1</b>		<b>Introduction Number</b> <b>AB-0285</b>	
<b>Description</b> public protective services hearing protection assistance			
<b>Fiscal Effect</b>			
<b>State:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
<b>Local:</b>			
<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"/> Counties		<input type="checkbox"/> Others <u>0</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts		<input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
<b>Fund Sources Affected</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>Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</b>			
<b>Agency/Prepared By</b>		<b>Authorized Signature</b>	
DOT/ John Gilchrist (608) 266-7135		Bruce Rheineck (608) 266-5164	
		<b>Date</b>	
		6/18/2025	

## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOT 6/18/2025

LRB Number	25-3229/1	Introduction Number	AB-0285	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> public protective services hearing protection assistance					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill has an indeterminate fiscal effect on the Department of Transportation. The bill directs the Department to create and manage a Public Protective Services Hearing Protection Program. The purpose of the program is for the Department to procure commercially available, reusable hearing protection devices that meet the standards set in the bill and then to distribute the devices to law enforcement and fire protective agencies across the state upon request and in quantities determined by each agency's need.

In the state of Wisconsin, there are approximately 520 law enforcement agencies with an estimated 13,500 sworn personnel and approximately 800 fire departments with an estimated 31,000 firefighters. The cost per unit of hearing protection can range considerably. Based on information available to the Department at this time, it is estimated that a device which meets the specifications of the bill would cost \$400.00. However, the unit price cannot be determined until the state procurement process is followed and a contract with a potential supplier is negotiated. Both the unit price and the number of devices requested by agencies will dictate the cost of the program to the Department. Assuming that one hearing protection device is requested per eligible person annually, the department anticipates purchasing and distributing 44,500 devices annually. At a cost of \$400 each, the cost for hearing protection devices is \$17,800,000 annually.

To create and administer the program would require additional personnel and software changes. It is estimated that it would take 2.0 FTE to administer the program at an estimated annual cost of \$107,100 for salary, fringe, and supplies. The creation of an online portal to handle the requests from agencies across the state would cost approximately \$50,000 and take between six and twelve months. This staff would be required to ensure compliance with the amendment to the bill passed on June 11, 2025 (Senate Amendment 1, SB283) that requires local agencies to pay a share of the cost of the hearing protection, as specified by the amendment.

The bill does not provide funding to support its purpose and the Department does not have excess funds or personnel to support it. There is currently no appropriation that provides the statutory authority for the Department to receive or expend funds for this program.

Further, the applicability of this non-transportation program to general law enforcement and fire protective agencies would not seem to meet the requirements of Article VIII, Section 11 of the Wisconsin Constitution for use of State Transportation Fund revenues in that there was no appropriation for this activity prior to December 31, 2010 and the activity does not appear to further the planning, promotion, and protection of the state's transportation system.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications

It is estimated that it would take 2.0 FTE to administer the program at an estimated annual cost of \$107,100 for salary, fringe, and supplies.

The ongoing cost for procurement and delivery of the hearing protection is indeterminate due to the wide range of products available, but current cost estimates are \$17,800,000 annually. Until a product is selected through the state procurement process and the number of requested devices is known, the annual cost of the program is indeterminate.