

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 3/13/2025

LRB Number	25-0026/1	Introduction Number	AB-0089	Estimate Type	Original
Description theft crimes and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal and certain commitment proceedings. The SPD plays a critical role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation has the potential to increase SPD costs if it creates a new criminal offense, expands the definition of an existing criminal offense, or increases the penalties for an existing offense.

Assembly Bill 89 would allow prosecutors to aggregate the value of property and retail theft crimes over a 6 month period. This could lead to increased penalties for these crimes, which could increase SPD's workload and expenditures. Charges that carry higher penalties are more likely to go to trial, which require SPD attorneys' time and resources, SPD support staff time and resources, and paid experts to be reimbursed by SPD.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications