

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DA 11/18/2025

LRB Number	25-4832/1	Introduction Number	SB-0499	Estimate Type	Original
Description the definition of hemp					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Senate Bill 499 (SB-499) would modify the statutory definition of "hemp" under state law to mean the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, including the seeds and derivatives, with a total tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis. The bill would clarify that "hemp" includes industrial hemp but excludes certain synthesized or non-naturally occurring cannabinoids and viable seeds that exceed the THC threshold. These changes would align Wisconsin's definition of hemp with federal standards and simplify enforcement under the state's Controlled Substances Act.

The District Attorneys are responsible for prosecuting criminal cases, handling state forfeiture actions and traffic violations, cooperating on welfare fraud investigations, as well as participating in John Doe investigations, attending grand jury proceedings, representing the state in criminal appeals, initiating or appearing in civil actions and special proceedings, and enforcing various legal provisions, as authorized and prescribed under Chapter 978, Wis. Stats.

SB-499 would likely have a positive fiscal impact for District Attorney offices. The bill would simplify the evidentiary process for THC-related prosecutions by defining hemp as the plant itself rather than the material in which THC is contained. This clarification would likely obviate the need to seek an independent lab for quantitative testing of THC and would save prosecutors and law enforcement costs associated with the investigation, testing, and prosecution of THC offenses. By reducing disputes over whether a sample exceeds the 0.3 percent THC threshold, the bill would improve efficiency and result in measurable cost savings for District Attorney operations, though to an unknown extent at this time.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications