



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #122

### **Law Enforcement Officer Supplement Grants (DOA -- Justice Information System Surcharge)**

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 36, #1 and Page 39, #3]

#### **CURRENT LAW**

The law enforcement officer supplement grants program provides grants to cities to employ additional uniformed law enforcement officers whose primary duty is beat patrolling. A city is eligible to apply for a grant under the program if it has a population of at least 25,000. The Department of Administration's Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) must make grant awards to the 10 eligible cities submitting applications that have the highest rates of violent crime index offenses in the most recent full calendar year for which data is available from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's uniform crime reporting system. The Office may not award an annual grant in excess of \$150,000 to any one city. Base funding for the grant program is \$1,361,000 GPR annually.

#### **GOVERNOR**

Delete the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation and its base funding of \$1,361,000 GPR annually. Instead, create a PR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation funded from justice information system surcharge revenues, and initially provide \$1,361,000 PR annually in expenditure authority to this appropriation.

Reduce expenditure authority to the new PR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation by \$136,100 PR annually associated with a 10% budget reduction. As a result, the law enforcement officer supplement grants program would have net available funding of \$1,224,900 PR annually for grants to eligible cities.

#### **DISCUSSION POINTS**

1. Under 1993 Wisconsin Act 193, the Legislature created a law enforcement officer

supplement grants program under OJA. Act 193 initially appropriated \$1,000,000 GPR in 1994-95 to fund grants under the new program. This annual level of grant funding was maintained in each succeeding fiscal year through 2006-07.

2. Under 2007 Wisconsin Act 20, the Legislature provided an additional \$450,000 GPR annually to this program to increase the available grants to eligible cities for law enforcement officers whose primary duty is beat patrolling. As a result, the program had annual base funding of \$1,450,000 GPR during 2007-09. In the current biennium, base funding for the program was reduced to \$1,361,000 GPR annually as a result of across-the-board budget reductions.

3. A city applying for a grant under the program must include a proposed plan for expenditure of the grant monies. Such funding may only be utilized for salary and fringe benefit costs; further, the grantee must provide a 25% local match to any grant funds received under the program. Cities may not generally utilize the grant funding to pay for overtime costs (except in the first year of a city's initial grant under the program), and the grant funding must result in a net increase in the number of uniformed law enforcement officers assigned to beat patrol duties. The following table identifies the allocation of these grants by OJA in the current fiscal year.

### **2010-11 Law Enforcement Officer Supplement Grants**

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Local Match</u>	<u>Project Description</u>
Beloit	\$134,927	\$44,976	Beloit funds a portion of three beat patrol officers.
Fond du Lac	134,927	44,976	Fond du Lac police department funds two street crimes officers.
Green Bay	134,927	44,976	Green Bay maintains five officers to perform beat patrol duties.
Kenosha	134,927	44,976	Kenosha funds are used to support four beat patrol officer positions.
La Crosse	134,927	44,976	La Crosse police department funds one and a half beat patrol officers.
Madison	140,793	46,931	Madison Police Department funds salary and fringe benefits of four officers.
Milwaukee	140,793	46,931	City of Milwaukee funds a portion of salary and fringe benefits of six officers assigned to beat patrol duties.
Racine	134,927	44,976	City of Racine Police Department funds two beat patrol officers.
Wausau	134,926	44,975	Wausau Police Department supports portions of the salary and fringe benefits of four officers.
West Allis	<u>134,926</u>	<u>44,975</u>	West Allis funds a portion of the salary and fringe benefits of two officers assigned to daily patrol duties.
Total:	\$1,361,000	\$453,668	

4. Under the budget bill, the law enforcement officer supplement grants program would be transferred from the general fund to the justice information system surcharge fund. The grant program would then be subject to a 10% budget reduction which would reduce available grant funding to eligible cities from \$1,361,000 GPR annually under current law, to \$1,224,900 PR annually. Administration staff indicates that it is the intent of DOA to lapse \$119,800 annually in revenues associated with this 10% budget reduction to the general fund. As a result, these measures would improve the general fund balance by \$2,961,600 GPR over the biennium due to: (a) annual GPR expenditure reductions of \$1,361,000 GPR associated with moving the program from the general fund to the justice information system surcharge fund; and (b) lapsing \$119,800 PR annually in justice information system surcharge revenue associated with the 10% budget reduction

to the general fund. In order to improve the general fund balance and maintain the program with a 10% annual reduction in grant funding, the Committee could consider approving the Governor's recommendation. [Alternative 1]

5. The Committee could also conclude under Alternative 2 in the *Justice Information System Surcharge Overview Paper #120*, that it wishes to restore the justice information system surcharge to its historical function. This alternative would delete the recommendation in the bill to alter the allocation mechanism for justice information system surcharge revenue, reduce the surcharge from \$21.50 to \$14.50, and would again limit the functions funded from the surcharge to justice information systems at DOA and the courts, and deposit \$1 from every assessed surcharge to the general fund.

6. If the Committee wished to again limit the justice information system surcharge to funding justice information systems, the Committee could delete the Governor's recommendation. This would maintain the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation under OJA with base funding of \$1,361,000 GPR annually. [Alternative 2] The Committee could also consider deleting the bill provisions but provide \$1,224,900 GPR annually to the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation. This alternative would continue the program as a GPR funded program but maintain the 10% reduction under the bill to available grant funding. [Alternative 3] Finally, the Committee could consider deleting the bill provisions but provide \$1,000,000 GPR annually to the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation. While this is the level of grant funding that was provided by the state through the 2006-07 state fiscal year, this would represent a 27% reduction to current law base funding. [Alternative 4]

**ALTERNATIVES**

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to delete the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation and its base funding of \$1,361,000 GPR annually. Instead, create a PR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation funded from justice information system surcharge revenues, and initially provide \$1,361,000 PR annually in expenditure authority to this appropriation.

Reduce expenditure authority to the new PR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation by \$136,100 PR annually associated with a 10% budget reduction. As a result, the law enforcement officer supplement grants program would have net available funding of \$1,224,900 PR annually for grants to eligible cities.

2. Delete provision. This alternative would retain the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation and its base funding of \$1,361,000 GPR annually.

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
GPR	\$2,722,000
PR	<u>- 2,449,800</u>
Total	\$272,200

3. Delete provision. In addition, reduce GPR grant funding under the law enforcement officer supplement grants program by 10% annually. This alternative would retain the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation but provide grant funding of \$1,224,900 GPR annually.

<b>ALT 3</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
GPR	\$2,449,800
PR	<u>- 2,449,800</u>
Total	\$0

4. Delete provision. In addition, reduce GPR grant funding under the law enforcement officer supplement grants program by 27% annually. This alternative would retain the GPR annual law enforcement officer supplement grants appropriation but provide grant funding of \$1,000,000 GPR annually.

<b>ALT 4</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
GPR	\$2,000,000
PR	<u>- 2,449,800</u>
Total	- \$449,800

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