

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 5/3/2023

LRB Number	23-2983/1	Introduction Number	AB-0245	Estimate Type	Original
Description county and municipal aid; imposing a city sales tax and an additional county sales tax to pay the unfunded actuarial accrued liability of city and county retirement systems; requiring newly hired city and county employees of certain city agencies and counties to be enrolled in the Wisconsin Retirement System; fire and police commissions of first class cities; eliminating the personal property tax; reporting certain crimes and other incidents that occur on school property or school transportation; advisory referenda; local health officers; local public protection services; exceptions to local levy limits; local regulation of certain quarry operations; emergency services; local approval of projects and activities under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program; requiring a referendum; and granting rule-making authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill contains many changes to current law, but just two provisions directly impact K-12 schools. This fiscal estimate provides information for just the K-12 school related provisions.

Provision #1: Requiring School Resource Officers (SROs) in Milwaukee Public Schools district (MPS):

The bill requires MPS to ensure that at least 25 SROs be present at MPS schools during normal school hours, and be available for before/after school care, extracurricular activities, and sporting events, beginning January 1, 2024. Under the bill, the cost of supporting SROs in MPS schools would be shared between MPS and the City of Milwaukee, per agreement between the City and MPS. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, MPS would be required to allocate SROs based on the data related to criminal or ordinance violations occurring on school property that schools would be required to collect and report (under the bill - see provision #2 below).

In recent years, the MPS board terminated contracts under which MPS paid for Milwaukee police officers to patrol outside its buildings and events. This fiscal estimate assumes that currently, MPS does not employ or contract or SROs in MPS schools.

To estimate the potential cost associated with SROs in MPS schools, information was accessed from the City of Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission web site, which indicated that:

- Paid police academy on a bi-weekly wage of \$1,723.
- Milwaukee officers receive a starting annual salary of \$59,734.
- The city offers textbook and tuition reimbursement up to \$1,500 a year and a full pension after 25 years of service.

Using \$60,000 as the low end of a range for salary costs per SRO and a rate of 36 percent of salary costs for the estimated fringe benefit costs (health insurance, retirement, etc.), the base annualized cost would be \$84,600 per SRO (for an entry level officer). This excludes the costs of paid Police Academy training and textbook/tuition reimbursements; it also does not reflect pay increases over time (e.g., general wage adjustments, promotions).

Using \$84,600 per SRO, the total annual cost could be at least \$2,040,000 for 25 SROs (likely the low end of the range).

The cost to MPS would depend on what is agreed upon by the City of Milwaukee and MPS, but if we assume an equal share between the two entities, the additional cost to MPS could be at least \$1,020,000 annually.

Provision #2: Reporting criminal and ordinance violations that occur on school property.

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, this bill requires public high schools and private high schools participating in a parental choice program to collect statistics on violations of municipal disorderly conduct ordinances and certain crimes, including homicide, sexual assault, burglary, battery, and arson, that occur on school property, on transportation provided by the school, or at school-sanctioned events.

The high school must collect statistics about the crime or disorderly conduct only if a) it occurred on a weekday

between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.; b) it is reported to law enforcement; and c) a charge is filed, or citation is issued. The bill further requires that the collected statistics be reported to the Department of Public Instruction and included on the annual school and school district accountability report. Finally, the bill clarifies that DPI may not consider crimes statistics reported by a school or school district for purposes of determining a school or school district's performance on the annual school and school district accountability report.

Local: Indeterminate.

It is anticipated that schools will incur additional costs to collect, maintain, and report all statistics of crime incidents taking place in schools or on school property during both regular and non-school hours. Costs will vary from school to school. Furthermore, it is unknown how much of that reportable crime data might be collected by local law enforcement, rather than schools, particularly off site or during non-school hours. For those reasons, the costs are indeterminate.

State: Indeterminate

The Department would need to commit staff resources to develop a new reporting system that incorporates the uniform crime reporting system of the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ). Staff estimate that the work required to program the student information system to collect the data and incorporate it into the school report cards could require approximately 800 person hours.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications