Fiscal Estimate - 2001 Session

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DPI/ Th	omas Johns	on (608) 266-28	319	Brian Pahnke	e (608) 266-2804			04/24/2001

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DPI 04/24/2001

LRB Number 01-0102/2	Introduction Number AB-343	Estimate Type	Original
Subject			
Display of US flag and offering	pledge of allegiance or national anthem		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Currently, every public and private school must display the U.S. flag in the schoolroom or on a flagstaff located on school grounds. Beginning in 2005-06, this bill requires the flag to be displayed in every public and private school classroom.

Currently, every public and private school must offer the pledge of allegiance in grades one to eight at the beginning of school at least one day per week. However, no pupil may be compelled to recite the pledge. This bill requires that the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem be offered in grades one to 12 at the beginning of each school day. No pupil may be compelled to recite the pledge or sing the anthem.

Costs to local school districts as a result of this bill are indeterminate. In the 1998-99 school year, Wisconsin's 1,868 public schools were required to display at least one U.S. flag. Assuming that an average school contains 20 classrooms, this bill would require a total of 37,360 U.S. flags to be displayed in Wisconsin public schools. Prices for flag kits (including flags and brackets) may range from \$5 to \$15 each. At an average cost of \$10 to equip each classroom with a flag, costs to local school districts may total \$373,600. However, since some school districts may currently display flags in classrooms, and some local veterans' groups may donate flags to schools, costs to a particular district may range from zero to perhaps several thousand dollars in large districts. (Wisconsin's approximately 1,000 private schools may also incur additional costs under provisions of this bill, but these costs are indeterminate as well.)

The bill's provision requiring that public and private schools offer the pledge of allegiance or the national anthem in grades one to 12 each school day may reduce instructional time available, but is not anticipated to have a fiscal effect.

There is no state fiscal effect as a result of this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications