

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

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LRB Number 01-1831/1	Introduction Number AB-382	Estimate Type Original
Subject Prisoner reimbursement to municipalities		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a city, village or town is required to pay for expenses incurred by a county to imprison persons that a court orders imprisoned for failing to pay a forfeiture and assessments and costs related to a municipal ordinance violation. This bill would allow those municipalities to recover from inmates the costs incurred with the stay.

If enacted, this bill might increase revenues to those municipalities that successfully pursue the recovery of these costs. However, if municipalities need to file actions in court to pursue cost recovery, there will be an increase in court costs for both the municipalities and the counties. Those municipalities that do not have collection systems will need to develop a system.

It is not possible to project how many of these kinds of violators there will be and what length of stays they might incur. Jail charges vary from county to county. In addition, the number of Wisconsin municipalities that would pursue the recovery of expenses is unknown. Finally, the likelihood of cost recovery and the administrative expenses of the recovery process are also unknown. Therefore, we are not able to estimate the fiscal impact of this legislation.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications