Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

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LRB	Number	09-2321/2		Intro	duction Nun	nber A	B-0594	1
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Agen	cy/Prepared	Ву	Au	thorized	Signature	-		Date
SPD/ Mike Tobin (608) 266-8259 Krista				sta Ginge	a Ginger (608) 264-8572			12/8/2009

Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 12/8/2009

LRB Number	09-2321/2	Introduction Number	AB-0594	Estimate Type	Original					
Description Notifying a law enforcement agency when certain persons are released from the custody of the Department of Corrections										

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) is statutorily authorized and required to appoint attorneys to represent indigent defendants in criminal proceedings. The SPD plays a major role in ensuring that the Wisconsin justice system complies with the right to counsel provided by both the state and federal constitutions. Any legislation has the potential to increase SPD costs if it creates a new criminal offense, expands the definition of an existing criminal offense, or increases the penalties for an existing offense.

This bill does not provide for a new criminal offense, expand the definition of a criminal offense, or increase criminal penalties. The bill provides procedural rules regarding notification to law enforcement agencies and to collective bargaining units when certain inmates (or mental-health patients) become eligible for release from incarceration (or from confinement in a mental-health facility). Therefore, the SPD would not be required or authorized to appoint attorneys under this bill, and the SPD does not anticipate any increase in its caseload if the bill is enacted.

Counties are also subject to increased costs when a new crime is created. There are some defendants who, despite exceeding the SPD's statutory financial guidelines, are constitutionally eligible for appointment of counsel because it would be a substantial hardship for them to retain an attorney. The court is required to appoint counsel at county expense for these defendants. However, for the same reason that the SPD does not anticipate any impact on its caseload, the counties are unlikely to see any such increase in case appointments.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications