

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DHS 2/5/2010

LRB Number	09-3907/2	Introduction Number	AB-0697	Estimate Type	Original
Description The BadgerCare Plus Basic Plan, Benchmark Plan benefits, and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill authorizes the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish BadgerCare Plus Basic, a limited benefit plan for adults without dependent children who are on the waiting list for the BadgerCare Plus Core Plan. The Department of Health Services has worked with its actuary to create a benefit plan and design a member premium that will pay all benefit and administrative costs for the plan. The Department is not expected to incur any additional costs to implement and administer BadgerCare Plus Basic.

While it is not anticipated that BadgerCare Plus Basic would create GPR costs, the Department will have options to address any issues that would arise if costs were to exceed premiums revenues. The Department has a \$1 million reserve fund from a federal grant and would have options to modify the benefits and cost-sharing of the plan to ensure the Department does not incur costs for this plan in excess of premium revenues. Therefore, it is expected that BadgerCare Plus Basic will have neither a short nor long-term fiscal impact on the Department.

Additional components of this legislation include changes to the BadgerCare Plus Benchmark plan necessary to comply with federal Medicaid law. These changes will not have a material fiscal effect on the Department. Currently, the Benchmark plan provides emergency medical transportation. The bill expands the transportation benefit under the Benchmark Plan to include non-emergency medical transportation, in accordance with federal law. The Department concludes that this cost can be absorbed within the existing budget.

Lastly the bill extends benefits for Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) and all services found necessary by this screening for Benchmark plan recipients under the age of 21, as required by federal law. This is a minor change to current law, and will have minimal impact on expenditures.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications