

Fiscal Estimate - 2009 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 09-2991/2	Introduction Number SB-638
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Description
 Accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or the Technical College System

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
 - Increase Existing Revenues
 - Decrease Existing Revenues
 - Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes No
 - Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
- Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory
 - 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
 - Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected

- GPR
 FED
 PRO
 PRS
 SEG
 SEGS

Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations

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Date

3/26/2010

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 3/26/2010

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Description Accessible instructional materials for students with disabilities enrolled in the University of Wisconsin System or the Technical College System					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 638 includes requirements for Wisconsin Technical Colleges to assist students who require accessible instructional materials. Under the bill, a WTCS college may request materials from publishers in an agreed-upon electronic format or colleges may convert materials themselves or arrange for the conversion of materials. Colleges that convert instructional materials into alternative formats may share the alternative format versions with other colleges serving students with disabilities.

While WTCS colleges already work with students to ensure the availability of accessible materials, the bill could increase costs for WTCS colleges as the number of students seeking accessible materials increases or as students requiring accessible materials enroll in new programs, courses or colleges where accessible materials have not previously requested. The possible additional costs are indeterminate because they will depend primarily on the number of students who attend WTCS colleges and who need alternative materials because they are blind or visually impaired, or who have specific learning disabilities or other disabilities affecting the activity of reading and who need reasonable accommodations to read. For 2008-09, approximately 7,000 WTCS students were identified as having disabilities that might affect the activity of reading including students who were visually impaired, learning disabled, had traumatic brain injury, or who have multiple handicaps.

The bill increases State costs because it establishes the need for biennial assessment of the need for technical assistance, training and other support to increase the availability and effective use of the converted materials. If the biennial assessment identifies local needs for technical assistance and training, providing the assistance and training would create additional costs for the WTC System Office. Possible additional costs created for WTC System Office can be absorbed into existing agency budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications