Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

Original Updated	Corrected Supplemental				
LRB Number 11-0859/3	Introduction Number AB-0243				
Description Sexual assault of a student by a member of a school staff and providing a penalty					
Fiscal Effect					
Appropriations Decrease Existing Appropriations Reverse Appropriations Create New Appropriations Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mandatory Perm 2. Decrease Costs Permissive Mandatory Perm	Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget				
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations ☐ GPR ☐ FED ☐ PRO ☐ PRS ☐ SEG ☐ SEGS 20.550(1)(d)					
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature Date				
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 9/13/2011

LRB Number 11-0859/3	Introduction Number	AB-0243	Estimate Type	Original		
Description Sexual assault of a student by a member of a school staff and providing a penalty						
Sexual assault of a student by a member of a school staff and providing a penalty						

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 and certain commitment 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 would create a new Class H felony for sexual contact or intercourse between a person who is or was a school staff member and a student who is or was, within one year, at the same school.

The SPD has no data to predict the number of additional felony cases that would result from the changes proposed in this bill. The SPD's average cost to provide representation with a private bar attorney in a felony case is \$613.83, calculated on the basis of the SPD's average cost per case in fiscal year 2011.

The SPD also provides representation in proceedings commenced by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to revoke probation or extended supervision. Because probation or prison could be ordered upon conviction for the proposed felony crime, this change would indirectly lead to additional cases in which the Department of Corrections (DOC) would seek to revoke probation or extended supervision. Thus, the bill would indirectly increase the number of cases in which the SPD appoints attorneys in revocation proceedings. The average cost during fiscal year 2011 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$322.46.

Because of the annual caseloads for staff attorney positions specified for budgeting purposes under § 977.08(5), Stats., it would be more cost effective to add staff attorney positions if a significant number of SPD cases resulted from this provision of the bill.

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. Thus, the counties would experience increased costs attributable to the higher classification of criminal charges resulting from this bill. The counties could also incur additional costs associated with incarceration of defendants, both pending trial and after sentencing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications