

Fiscal Estimate - 2011 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 11-3359/6	Introduction Number AB-0527				
Description Commissioners of the Public Service Commission; notices, orders, and determinations of the commission; certificates of authority issued by the commission; approval of contracts by the commission; electricity sales from certain wholesale merchant plants; public utility removal of certain electric service lines; renewable resource credits; tampering or interfering with utility equipment; granting rule-making authority; and providing penalties					
Fiscal Effect					
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; font-size: small;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No </div> <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs </div> </div>					
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory </div> <div style="width: 30%;"> 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts </div> </div>					
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Fund Sources Affected</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 20.550(1)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 20.550(1)	
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Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date			
SPD/ Anna Oehler (608) 267-0311	Adam Plotkin (608) 264-8572	2/2/2012			

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 2/2/2012

LRB Number	11-3359/6	Introduction Number	AB-0527	Estimate Type	Original
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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 critical 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 makes tampering with or removing, interrupting or breaking down equipment or structures used by electrical companies for the purposes of telecommunications, telegraphs, electric lights or electric power a Class B misdemeanor. This change in the law could result in additional misdemeanor charges under this section, in which some of the defendants may qualify for SPD representation. The SPD has no data to predict the number of additional misdemeanor 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 misdemeanor case was \$225.41 in fiscal year 2011.

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