

Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 17-2744/1	Introduction Number AB-0242	
Description substance abuse screening, testing, and treatment requirements for certain work experience programs, providing an exemption from emergency rule-making procedures, and requiring the exercise of rule-making authority		
Fiscal Effect State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs		
Local: <input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory 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		
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS		
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DCF 4/18/2017

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Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, the controlled substances screening and testing requirements apply to individuals who apply for Transform Milwaukee Jobs program, the Transitional Jobs program, the Children First program, and W-2 services and benefits for noncustodial parents. Every individual who applies to participate in certain work experience programs administered by the Department of Children and Families is required to complete a questionnaire that screens for the abuse of a controlled substance. If the applicant answers yes to three of the questions on the screening tool, the applicant is required to take a drug test. If the test results are positive, the individual must participate in substance abuse treatment to remain eligible for a program.

This bill extends the screening and testing requirements to other Wisconsin Works (W-2) participants in transitional placements, community service jobs, and temporary employment match placements, as well as the adult members of their W-2 assistance groups, and eliminates reference to the questionnaire for screening controlled substance abuse. Instead, the bill allows DCF to determine the appropriate mechanism by which to screen applicants. The bill also exempts from the controlled substances screening and testing requirements a custodial parent of a child who is eight weeks old or less, a woman with a high-risk pregnancy, a W-2 participant who moves to an unsubsidized job and receives only case management services, and a dependent child. In addition, if there is a refusal for a test or treatment, a partial W-2 benefit would go to the custodial child(ren) through a protective payee for a period of 12 months or until the participant becomes eligible again.

The changes in this bill will likely significantly increase the volume of screenings issued and tests conducted. Extending a substance abuse screening to more W-2 applicants could lead to an increased workload for agency staff and could increase the length of the application process. However, any costs related to staffing would be absorbed by the agencies and would not affect the existing contracts payment structure. In the 2015-2017 biennium the department was provided \$250,000 GPR to administer the new substance abuse requirements. An increased volume of screening or testing could be absorbed within this existing allocation. These funds are also payment of last resort for treatment, which would usually be covered by Medicaid or private insurance.

The costs related to promulgating rules and implementing the protective payee structure are indeterminate at this time. It is unknown whether a protective payee structure would require investment in IT or automation projects to function effectively, or if these changes could be handled by the current system.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications