

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 2/24/2017

LRB Number	17-0880/1	Introduction Number	AB-0035	Estimate Type	Original
Description The number of jurors in criminal cases					

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.

Under the current statutes, parties may agree in certain criminal cases to have a jury of less than 12 persons. This bill requires all jury trials in criminal cases to have 12-person juries.

Juror costs are borne by the county. This bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the SPD.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications