Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

☑ Original ☐ Updated	Corrected	Supplemental				
LRB Number 17-0424/1	Introduction Number	AB-0974				
Description authorizing the circuit court to order a person who engages in discrimination in employment on the basis of military service to pay compensatory and punitive damages						
Fiscal Effect						
AppropriationsReven	ease Existing absorb within	kannaav.				
Local: No Local Government Costs Indeterminate 1. Increase Costs Permissive Mandatory 2. Decrease Costs Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Districts No Local Government Units Affected Towns Village Counties Others School Districts Districts						
Fund Sources Affected	Affected Ch. 20 A	Appropriations				
GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS 20.445(1)(a)						
Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date				
DWD/ Thomas Goodwyn (608) 267-9058	BJ Dernbach (608) 266-2284	3/2/2018				

Fiscal Estimate Narratives DWD 3/2/2018

LRB Number	17-0424/1	Introduction Number	AB-0974	Estimate Type	Original	
Description						
authorizing the circuit court to order a person who engages in discrimination in employment on the basis of						
military service to pay compensatory and punitive damages						

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill permits the Department of Workforce Development or a person who is alleged or was found to have been discriminated against on the basis of military service to bring an action in circuit court to recover compensatory and punitive damages, plus reasonable costs and attorney fees incurred in the action. The bill does not permit an action for damages to be brought against any local governmental unit or against any employer employing fewer than 15 individuals.

Under the bill, if a circuit court finds in favor of the person bringing the action, it must award compensatory and punitive damages. Damages paid by the defendant are capped at a range from \$50,000 to \$300,000 and determined by the number of employees the defendant employs. These amounts would be reviewed annually by DWD and increased based on the percentage change in the consumer price index.

If enacted, the DWD Equal Rights Division estimates that the bill would require a one-time, absorbable cost of \$5,000 to revise existing fair employment publications.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Annually, Equal Rights Division would need to revise the damage caps and update existing materials. These costs can be absorbed within DWD's budget.