

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

LAB 4/26/2017

LRB Number	17-2329/1	Introduction Number	SB-214	Estimate Type	Original
Description creating a program for reimbursing the higher education debt of small farm operators, creating an individual income tax deduction for certain amounts received from such a program, granting rule-making authority, making an appropriation, and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill provides for establishing a program to reimburse certain individuals who operate small farms for their higher education debt. The bill specifies that the purpose of the program is to recruit and retain new Wisconsin farmers of diverse backgrounds who have completed postsecondary education, regardless of field of study, previous state residency, or background in agriculture, and to sustain this state's small and midsize family farms while fostering innovation in sustainable best practices.

The bill requires the Legislative Audit Bureau to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in accomplishing the purposes specified in the bill. Under the bill, no later than July 1, 2024, and every 10 years thereafter, the Bureau must submit a report of its evaluation to the chief clerk of each house of the Legislature for distribution to the appropriate standing committees. The report must include the Bureau's recommendations on terminating, continuing, revising, or expanding the program, including any recommendations regarding funding the program.

It is difficult to accurately estimate the costs of conducting these audits until planning and scheduling work is completed to determine the scope of each audit. It is likely that conducting these audits would reduce the flexibility of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee to direct the Bureau to complete other audits and evaluations.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications