

Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 17-0312/1		Introduction Number SB-348	
Description creating a microstamping requirement for certain handguns, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, and providing criminal penalties			
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 type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues	
<input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations		<input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
Local:			
<input type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate			
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs		3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue	
<input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Counties		<input type="checkbox"/> Others	
<input type="checkbox"/> School Districts		<input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cities			
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			
Agency/Prepared By		Authorized Signature	
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		Date	
		9/25/2017	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

SPD 9/25/2017

LRB Number	17-0312/1	Introduction Number	SB-348	Estimate Type	Original
Description creating a microstamping requirement for certain handguns, requiring the exercise of rule-making authority, and providing criminal penalties					

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 would create three new misdemeanor crimes by prohibiting: a gun manufacturer or firearms dealer from transferring a semiautomatic handgun that doesn't produce a microstamp on each cartridge case it expends; a manufacturer from selling a semiautomatic handgun that does not produce a microstamp; and an individual from modifying a semiautomatic handgun to prevent law enforcement from accessing the microstamp on an expended cartridge. Only the latter of the three new crimes would likely result in charges against an individual who would qualify for SPD representation.

It is possible that given the new criminal charges, the SPD will see an increase in the number of cases in which it provides representation. We are unable, however, to quantify the number of cases that might occur due to the provisions in the bill and how many people would meet the eligibility requirements for SPD services. The average cost for a misdemeanor case in fiscal year 2016 was \$242.06. Because of the annual caseloads for staff attorney positions specified for budgeting purposes under § 977.08(5), Stats., it would be more cost effective to add staff attorney positions if a significant number of SPD cases resulted from this provision of the bill.

Because probation or prison could be ordered upon conviction for the proposed crime, this change could indirectly lead to additional cases in which the Department of Corrections (DOC) would seek to revoke probation or extended supervision. The SPD provides representation in proceedings commenced by the Department of Corrections (DOC) to revoke supervision. Thus, the bill could indirectly increase the number of cases in which the SPD appoints attorneys in revocation proceedings. The average cost during fiscal year 2016 for SPD representation by a private bar attorney in a revocation proceeding was \$286.98.

This bill could also have a fiscal impact on counties. 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. The counties could also incur additional costs associated with incarceration of defendants, both pending trial and after sentencing.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications