

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

PSC 2/8/2018

LRB Number	17-5365/1	Introduction Number	SB-762	Estimate Type	Original
Description preparation and response required by railroad corporations in the event of discharge of transported materials and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 762 establishes the emergency preparedness required of railroad corporations transporting hazardous materials in the state and the response required by railroad corporations if a discharge of hazardous materials occurs.

SB 762 requires each railroad corporation to provide emergency management training to each fire department and local organization having jurisdiction along certain routes upon which the railroad operates. The Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (Office) will make payments to the fire departments and local organizations for emergency management costs, which include actual training costs, costs associated with the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of gear and equipment, supplies for training or gear and equipment, and costs associated with emergency planning. These payments will be made from the rail inspection, safety training, and response preparedness appropriation that is created by SB 762.

SB 762 requires the Office to assess each railroad corporation operating on routes over which hazardous materials are transported a proportionate share of the cost of the Office's actual expenses and payments to local fire departments and local organizations. The annual assessment shall be based on route miles operated in the state. This revenue will be recorded in the newly created appropriation.

This fiscal effect for the Office is indeterminable. Railroads commonly carry hazardous material, including oil over 3,600 miles of rail lines running through 750 communities. The total number, as well as the needs, of impacted fire departments and local organizations is unknown. As such, we are unable to estimate the amount of payments that will be made to these entities.

SB 762 requires the Office to plan and coordinate activities necessary to carry out the purpose of Wis. Stat. § 192.45, which is created under this bill. This will require additional staff time. The Office will use existing resources for this effort. The amount of Office staff time required for planning and coordinating activities is indeterminate.

In addition, for existing assessments, the Office uses gross intrastate operating revenues to determine each railroad corporation's proportionate share of expenses. As noted above, SB 762 requires the assessments to be based on route miles operated in the state. Additional staff time and IT resources will be needed to implement this assessment methodology. The Office will use existing resources for this effort. The amount of Office staff time required for implementation of the assessment methodology is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications