

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DMA 2/12/2018

LRB Number	17-5460/1	Introduction Number	SB-795	Estimate Type	Original
Description reemployment rights, death benefits, and continuation pay benefits of national guard and state defense force members on state active duty and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill makes changes to existing state statutes related to National Guard members activated on State Active Duty. Specifically, it requires DMA to continue paying a member of the national guard or state defense force who is injured in the performance of his or her duties while on state active duty; requires that DMA pay a death gratuity in the amount of \$100,000 to the designated beneficiary of a member of the national guard or state defense force who dies from an accidental injury while performing services growing out of and incidental to the member's employment on state active duty; and, extends eligibility for reemployment rights of individuals returning from active state service to non-state residents and to individuals whose active state service occurred in a territory of the United States.

The fiscal effects of the bill are indeterminate and not possible for the Department to estimate; however, based on prior injuries the Department estimates the costs to the State will be minimal. For the most recent state activation of 2,673 Wisconsin National Guard members in September 2017, the force had seven individuals who suffered an injury. The total medical costs incurred by the state were \$14,603. In general, most state activations have had minimal to no injuries sustained by service members. It is not possible to predict the number and severity of injuries National Guard members may incur while activated on state active duty; however, the impact is not anticipated to be significant.

The bill also modifies the amount of a death gratuity paid to a National Guard member beneficiary. The Wisconsin National Guard has not had a death of a service member while activated for state active duty. We anticipate the fiscal impact of this modification to be negligible and the Department can absorb the cost of processing the death gratuity payments with existing staff resources.

The modifications to current statute related to the reemployment rights of a service member has no fiscal impact.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications