

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 3/1/2024

LRB Number	23-5899/1	Introduction Number	SB-1074	Estimate Type	Original
Description reimbursement of emergency services under the Medical Assistance program when a patient is not transported; emergency medical services education; tuition and materials reimbursement for emergency medical responders and emergency medical services practitioners; reporting on changes to the scope of practice of emergency medical responders and emergency medical services practitioners; a levy limit exemption for regional emergency medical systems; eligible expenses of fire dues program; a live 911 pilot program; eligibility for the expenditure restraint incentive program; and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 1074 contains several provisions related to Medical Assistance reimbursement, Emergency Medical Services education, levy limit exceptions, fire dues program, Live 911 pilot program, and expenditure restraint incentive program. This fiscal estimate reflects only the fiscal impact to technical colleges and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) Board for the bill provisions related to emergency medical services education, tuition and materials costs for emergency medical responders and emergency medical services practitioners, and the report on scope of practice changes.

The bill creates a new appropriation, s. 20.292(1)(b), and provides \$7 million GPR annually to the WTCS Board for emergency medical services education. The bill requires the WTCS Board to provide grants to technical colleges that provide emergency medical services courses that train and prepare individuals for initial certification or initial licensure as an emergency medical responder or an emergency medical services practitioner. All 16 technical colleges provide emergency medical services courses that prepare individuals for certification or licensure as an emergency medical responder or an emergency medical services practitioner. As a result of the bill, technical college district board revenues will increase by \$7 million in 2023-24 and \$7 million in 2024-25. The fiscal impact on each technical college cannot be determined, but on average, revenues could increase by an average of \$437,500 annually at each technical college. The WTCS Board will incur administrative costs associated with the distribution and oversight of these grant funds, but these administrative staffing costs are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within the agency budget.

The bill creates a new appropriation and provides \$3.5 million GPR to the Higher Educational Aids Board (HEAB) in 2024-25 for emergency medical services education reimbursement. In addition, the bill requires HEAB to develop a program to reimburse individuals or their employer for the cost of tuition and materials necessary for the individual to complete a course at a technical college as necessary to qualify for initial certification or initial licensure as an emergency medical responder or an emergency medical services practitioner and meets certain conditions. Given HEAB is the administrator of these funds and the bill specifies that eligible individuals must apply to HEAB for reimbursement, there is no anticipated fiscal effect on the WTCS Board or technical colleges.

The bill requires the Emergency Medical Services Board, in consultation with the Department of Health Services (DHS) and the WTCS Board, to annually submit a report to the legislature on national changes to the scope of practice of emergency medical responders, emergency medical services practitioners, or any equivalent practitioners in other jurisdictions and how those scope of practice changes may affect training for emergency medical responders and emergency medical services practitioners in this state. The WTCS Board will incur administrative staffing costs associated with this annual report and the evaluation of scope of practice impacts on education and training. These administrative staffing costs are unknown, but are estimated to be minimal and can be absorbed within the agency budget.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications