

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOA 10/2/2023

LRB Number	23-2310/1	Introduction Number	AB-0221	Estimate Type	Original
Description the distribution of the Wisconsin Blue Book and highway maps					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Assembly Bill 221 (AB-221) proposes to update printing and distribution requirements for certain state documents, including the Wisconsin Blue Book (Blue Book) printed under s. 35.24 (1), Wis. Stats., and distributed according to s. 35.84, Wis. Stats.

The Blue Book is printed biennially by the Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), providing information regarding state officers and governmental organization. The Blue Book is distributed by the Department of Administration (Department) as required under s. 35.84, Wis. Stats. The current distribution requirements direct that a specified number of printed copies be provided to constitutional officers, members of the Legislature and Legislative bureaus (e.g., Legislative Fiscal Bureau), state agencies, judiciary entities, local units of government, etc.

AB-221 updates the printing and distribution requirements for the Blue Book. Generally, printed Blue Books would only be distributed to the offices of Legislative Senators and Assembly Representatives, would be available for public purchase under s. 35.91, Wis. Stats, and an electronic version would remain available online. Currently, 600 and 350 printed copies of the Blue Book are printed for each Senator and Representative, respectively. AB-221 would require that the LRB survey each Senate and Assembly office as to the number of Blue Book copies needed by each office and notify them that the Blue Book is available online. The total number of Blue Books currently available to each Senator and Representative would become the maximum number available (i.e., less than the total could be provided). Other entities currently included under the distribution would be removed by AB-221.

Distribution and delivery of the Blue Book is provided by the Department's Division of Enterprise Technology. The Department currently charges for the staff time associated with packaging/processing the Blue Books for the required distribution. The delivery of Blue Books is provided through inter-departmental delivery provisioned by the Department's Division of Facilities and Transportation Services, UPS or US mail. The LRB is not charged specific inter-departmental delivery costs for the Blue Book, and UPS or US mail costs are charged directly by the vendor or assessed through the Department's General Services Billing.

Currently, the Department charges the LRB for the distribution of approximately 8,800 Blue Books biennially, for generally those that are not directly shipped to the receiving entity. The amount charged to the LRB for this 2021-2023 biennial Blue Book distribution was \$29,000. A reduction in the number of Blue Books distributed and delivered by the Department could potentially reduce these LRB costs.

The Department estimates that the number of Blue Books distributed and the number of entities to which Blue Books are distributed in each biennium could potentially decrease significantly from the current 8,800 distributed by the Department. However, since the number of Blue Books produced and distributed would also depend upon the number of Blue Books purchased by the public, it is unknown how many entities, that under current law receive the Blue Book without a charge, would elect to purchase instead.

Currently, approximately 660 hours of work spread amongst up to 3.00 PR authorized FTE under s. 20.505(1) (kl), Wis. Stats., appropriation numeric 12600 is utilized upon the biennial release of the Blue Book and during the biennium for public sales. The Department estimates an indeterminate annualized reduction in staff time associated with the reduction in Blue Book distribution and delivery.

A reduction would not necessarily or always result in a reduction of the inter-departmental delivery or distribution. The Department anticipates that oftentimes an inter-departmental trip would still be needed to deliver a lesser quantity or to deliver other documents. The Department also anticipates that the reduction in processing and packaging time may be fully realized for entities no longer receiving the Blue Books, however diminishing returns may be experienced by the Department for those entities that will receive a lesser quantity.

The Department currently maintains a list of Blue Book recipients and anticipates that it may conduct surveying

of Legislators on behalf of the LRB; this work would replace the staff time otherwise spent on distribution. The estimated amount that would be billed to the LRB for Blue Book surveying is \$3,100. The workload associated with surveying legislators is estimated at 80 hours biennially, which is anticipated to offset any reduction of work associated with the distribution provisions of AB-221.

Therefore, the Department anticipates that the net fiscal impact is indeterminate but would be able to be absorbed with existing staffing, and that the potential loss in revenues may be mitigated by the redeployment of staff time that could be billed out for other services.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications