

State Affairs and Homeland Security

AB 132– Civil Air Patrol Unpaid Leave

Rep. Huebsch

Summary of Bill (*as amended*):

Assembly Bill 132 - would require an employer employing at least 11 individuals to grant an unpaid leave of absence for no more than five consecutive workdays or 15 total workdays per year to an employee who has offered written notification of membership in the Civil Air Patrol. The leave would be allowed for purposes of participating in an emergency service operation so long as the absence does not unduly disrupt the operations of the employer. AB 132 also prohibits an employer from discrimination against a job applicant or employee on the basis of the person's membership or participation in the Civil Air Patrol or interfering with, restraining or denying the right to participate.

Fiscal Effect:

A Fiscal Estimate from DWD lists the cost as increased state costs and increased local costs. State costs would include \$779 which represents 1/100 of an Equal Rights Officer -Senior position to handle the increased workload, and \$2000 one time cost to revise department printed materials. Local cost would increase if an employer had to assign another worker to cover the absence and that additional work hours resulted in overtime. However, they made no calculation of local costs, but anticipate it would be minor.

A Fiscal Estimate from ERC lists the costs for state and local as indeterminate.

A Fiscal Estimate from OSER lists the costs for state and local as indeterminate. OSER did say that costs would likely be negligible in the context of other discrimination related laws already in effect.

Supporters Message:

- These are volunteers that help Wisconsin agencies that provide emergency services.
- There are only 1,100 members in Wisconsin, so members often exhaust all of their vacation time.
- Last summer during the flooding 5,236 hours were donated by the Civil Air Patrol.
- Current law already protects against discrimination for other types of military service.

Opponents Message:

- It may be a hardship for smaller employers who don't have an abundance of staff to cover the absence.
- It could increase costs for the state and locally during one of the most difficult budgets in our state's history.

Key Supporters:

Representative Mike Huebsch (author); Col. Donald Haffner, Wisconsin Commander Civil Air Patrol.

Key Opponents:

No one testified or registered against AB 132, and no one registered against it with the Ethics Board.

Committee Vote:

On April 23, 2009, the Assembly Committee on State Affairs and Homeland Security recommended passage of AB 132 on a vote of 8-0.

Ranking Member Author of Bill Summary

Vince Williams; Office of Rep. Joan Ballweg (6-8077)