

MILWAUKEE COUNTY FISCAL NOTE FORM

DATE: 11/12/2025

Original Fiscal Note ☒

Substitute Fiscal Note ☐

SUBJECT: A resolution/ordinance from the Deputy Director, Department of Administrative Services, providing a report, resolution, and fiscal note to repeal, recreate, and renumber Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Chapter 32 Section 92, as Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances Chapter 32 Section 11, related to the administration of the Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP)

FISCAL EFFECT:

- ☐ No Direct County Fiscal Impact
- ☐ Existing Staff Time Required
- ☐ Increase Operating Expenditures  
(If checked, check one of two boxes below)
- ☐ Absorbed Within Agency’s Budget
- ☐ Not Absorbed Within Agency’s Budget
- ☐ Decrease Operating Expenditures
- ☒ Increase Operating Revenues
- ☐ Decrease Operating Revenues
- ☐ Increase Capital Expenditures
- ☐ Decrease Capital Expenditures
- ☐ Increase Capital Revenues
- ☐ Decrease Capital Revenues
- ☐ Use of contingent funds

Indicate below the dollar change from budget for any submission that is projected to result in increased/decreased expenditures or revenues in the current year.

	Expenditure or Revenue Category	Current Year	Subsequent Year
Operating Budget	Expenditure		
	Revenue		
	Net Cost		
Capital Improvement Budget	Expenditure	\$0	\$0
	Revenue	\$0	\$0
	Net Cost	\$0	\$0

## DESCRIPTION OF FISCAL EFFECT

**In the space below, you must provide the following information. Attach additional pages if necessary.**

- A. Briefly describe the nature of the action that is being requested or proposed, and the new or changed conditions that would occur if the request or proposal were adopted.

The proposed resolution and ordinance changes will enable the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to authorize interested Milwaukee County departments to initiate their own collection actions using any of the State of Wisconsin's collection services, including filing actions through the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue (WDOR) Tax Refund Intercept Program (TRIP). By allowing DAS to authorize departments to perform certification of debt for the State of Wisconsin's debt collection programs, reliance on third-party debt collection vendors can be reduced, which would result in increased revenue per delinquent collection action certified to the State of Wisconsin's debt collection programs for departments operating with DAS' authority under the proposed new ordinance. The proposed new ordinance also eliminates a fee attached to debtors, which is not supported by any existing statutory authority. Instead, the proposed ordinance provides an opportunity to charge a fee not to exceed actual expenses, should statutory authority be found to charge a fee.

- B. State the direct costs, savings or anticipated revenues associated with the requested or proposed action in the current budget year and how those were calculated.<sup>1</sup> If annualized or subsequent year fiscal impacts are substantially different from current year impacts, then those shall be stated as well. In addition, cite any one-time costs associated with the action, the source of any new or additional revenues (e.g. State, Federal, user fee or private donation), the use of contingent funds, and/or the use of budgeted appropriations due to surpluses or change in purpose required to fund the requested action.

Changing the ordinance to allow DAS to authorize departments that demonstrate appropriate controls are in place to initiate certification of debt owed to their department(s) would take effect January 1, 2026. Therefore, this action would not create costs, savings, or revenues in the current budget year.

In future budget years, should this file be approved, departments authorized by DAS will be able to certify debts to the State of Wisconsin's debt collection programs using their existing department employees. Employee staff time will be a future cost in all subsequent years. However, if the department were using a collections agency, it would still allocate staff time to provide the delinquent debt information to the debt collection vendor. The difference in staff time needed between these two processes is likely negligible. For example, certification to TRIP is a relatively simple process, involving updating spreadsheets submitted to TRIP when new debts are to be collected on, and when old debts have expired under WDOR program rules.

Estimating the exact amount of revenue from collections is challenging. For example, in TRIP collection actions, the total revenue is dependent on whether a tax return will be issued to the debtor in a year where the collection is active. The total possible revenue in any given year is also dependent on the volume of eligible delinquent debt owed to a department.

<sup>1</sup> If it is assumed that there is no fiscal impact associated with the requested action, then an explanatory statement that justifies that conclusion shall be provided. If precise impacts cannot be calculated, then an estimate or range should be provided.

<sup>2</sup> Office of Economic Inclusion review is required on all professional service and public work construction contracts.

Allowing departments to self-perform collection work with State of Wisconsin programs, such as Milwaukee County Parks, using TRIP for citation debts, will increase the revenue collected by the department. This can be achieved by either initiating a new process or modifying an existing one to retain a greater portion of the debt revenue.

- C. Discuss the budgetary impacts associated with the proposed action in the current year. A statement that sufficient funds are budgeted should be justified with information regarding the amount of budgeted appropriations in the relevant account and whether that amount is sufficient to offset the cost of the requested action. If relevant, discussion of budgetary impacts in subsequent years shall also be discussed. Subsequent year fiscal impacts shall be noted for the entire period in which the requested or proposed action would be implemented when it is reasonable to do so (i.e. a five-year lease agreement shall specify the costs/savings for each of the five years in question). Otherwise, impacts associated with the existing and subsequent budget years should be cited.

Changing the ordinance to allow DAS to authorize departments that demonstrate appropriate controls are in place to initiate certification of debt owed to their department would take effect January 1, 2026. Therefore, this action would not impact the current budget year.

In future budget years, if this file is approved, departments authorized by DAS could generate additional fee-based revenue through using the State of Wisconsin debt collection programs.

- D. Describe any assumptions or interpretations that were utilized to provide the information on this form.
- A. It is challenging to estimate the fiscal impact of the proposed change, as the total collected is dependent upon whether a debtor is collectible at any given time, along with the volume of debts owed in any given year. TRIP, for example, relies on a debtor receiving a tax refund from the State of Wisconsin, which may or may not be true for the period in which Milwaukee County can collect on the debt.

Department/Prepared By Department of Administrative Services/Amy Turim

Authorized Signature 

Did SBP Fiscal Staff Review? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did OEI Review?<sup>2</sup> ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Required