

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2001 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB1649

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron** Armstrong

**3. Committee** H. Courts of Justice

**4. Title** Convicts as witnesses in civil actions.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

Permits a juvenile and domestic relations district court to issue an order to the Department of Corrections to deliver a prisoner who shall appear as a witness in an action for the termination of parental rights. The bill also refers to depositions.

**6. Fiscal Impact:** Yes, see #8 below.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

There could be a fiscal impact on the various sheriff's departments (or law enforcement agencies) which would be called upon to transport the effected prisoners from the custody of the Department of Corrections to the site for the hearing and back to the custody of the Department.

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, there may be a workload impact resulting from this bill. However, the increase could be absorbed by the courts. Currently, this action is allowed only for actions in circuit court. The fiscal impact on the court system would be that the presence of additional participants could result in longer hearings in these proceedings. If the workload increases due to the longer proceedings, then additional court personnel may have to be added.

In addition, there should be no fiscal impact on the Department of Social Services as a result of this bill.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** the court system, the Department of Correction, the Compensation Board, the Department of Social Services.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** Clarification may be needed to identify who is responsible for transporting the prisoner. Also, this bill is identical to SB 802.

**Date:** 01/10/01 / jlm

**Document:** (D F:\JLM\Legist01\hb1649.doc)

cc: Secretary of Public Safety  
Secretary of Administration

