

**Department of Corrections, Central Activities**  
**2002 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB547

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron** Kilgore

**3. Committee** Courts of Justice

**4. Title** Limitation of civil lawsuits by prisoners.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

Limitation of civil lawsuits by prisoners. Creates a statutory scheme that prisoners must follow in order to file any suit related to their confinement. The bill substantially limits prisoners' ability to maintain civil lawsuits by prescribing venue, pre-screening by the court, prepayment of all costs and fees, limiting discovery, imposing sanctions and specific conditions pursuant to which suit may be filed.

**6. No Fiscal Impact (or) See Item #8.**

Fiscal Impact Estimates are:

**6a. Expenditure Impact:**

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Positions</i> | <i>Fund</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2001-02            |                |                  |             |
| 2002-03            |                |                  |             |
| 2003-04            |                |                  |             |

**6b. Revenue Impact:**

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Dollars</i> | <i>Positions</i> | <i>Fund</i> |
|--------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|
| 2001-02            |                |                  |             |
| 2002-03            |                |                  |             |
| 2003-04            |                |                  |             |

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** None.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

The fiscal impact of this legislation is uncertain but could be significant. Although exact figures on a statewide level are not available, inmates file a large number of lawsuits annually. These suits result in significant costs to the Department of Corrections and the Attorney General's Office. Based on the reduction in lawsuits filed in federal courts by inmates incarcerated in state prisons that occurred after the passage of the federal Prison Litigation Reform Act of 1996 (on which the proposed legislation is based), the Department estimates that the number of lawsuits filed in state courts by inmates incarcerated in state prisons will fall by at least 50 percent if this legislation were enacted.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections  
Department of Juvenile Justice  
Office of the Attorney General  
State Courts  
Local jails

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

**Date:** xx/xx/00/initials

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cc: Secretary of