

# Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number: HB2245**

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

**2. Patron: Watts**

**3. Committee: Appropriations**

**4. Title: Inmate participation in community -based programs**

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

As introduced, the proposed legislation would have required the Department of Corrections to give all nonviolent inmates the opportunity to participate in a residential community program, work release, or a community -based program within six months of their release date. An amendment adopted by the committee would authorize, rather than require, the department to offer such programs.

**6. Fiscal Impact: See Item No. 8.**

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

**8. Fiscal implications:**

The Department of Corrections (DOC) currently has the authority to place inmates in work release programs operated by jails and does so, on a limited basis. In addition, the department operates a transition program for nonviolent inmates in local jails on a pilot basis and plans to expand that program. The extent to which these programs can be expanded is limited by the availability of resources. The proposed bill, if amended as proposed, would not require DOC to offer or expand these programs beyond the funds currently appropriated for them, and thus would not have a fiscal impact.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Corrections**

**10. Technical amendment necessary: None.**

**11. Other comments:**

Under current law, only courts can place offenders in residential community programs or community-based programs operated by DOC, such as detention, diversion, and day reporting center programs. It is not clear if the proposed legislation would authorize DOC to place inmates in those programs before their release date. If the intention of the legislation is to enable DOC to use these programs as a "step down" for nonviolent inmates prior to their release, it should be made more explicit.

**Date:** 01/27/03/rwh

**Document:** G:\LEGIS\Fis-03\Hb2245.Doc DickHall -Sizemore

cc:SecretaryofPublicSafety