

Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB 615

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 Bell

3. Committee Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title Use of prison commissary profits

5. Summary/Purpose:

Current law authorizes the establishment of commissaries in state correctional facilities and local and regional jails. The law authorizes the use of profits realized from commissary operations to be used for educational, recreational, or other purposes that benefit inmates. The proposed legislation would add prerelease, postrelease employment and housing assistance to the purposes for which commissary profits could be used.

6. Fiscal Impact: Preliminary. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications:

Traditionally, commissary profits have been used by correctional facilities for items and activities that benefit inmates and which, for the most part, would not be supported with state funds. The Appropriation Act stipulates that commissary profits be used to support Prison Family Support Services (\$100,000 each year), an organization that arranges transportation for family members of inmates to prisons for visitation; organizations that provide faith-based services to inmates (\$100,000 each year); and the Save Our Shelters "Pen Pals" program (\$75,000 each year), a program that uses inmates to train dogs rescued from animal shelters. Among other uses of commissary profits are the purchase of legal materials and magazine subscriptions for prison libraries, the purchase of additional recreational equipment, and paying for family days, which often feature cook-outs and picnics for inmates and their families.

Because commissary profits are used for items or activities for which there is no appropriation of state funds, there would be no impact on the appropriations for the Department of Corrections. However, to the extent that commissary profits are used for the additional purposes listed in the proposed legislation, there would be less money available for the other traditional activities supported by these funds.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections
Local and regional jails

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: This bill is identical to SB 613.

Date: 02/02/04 / rwh

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety