

## Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB 1763

<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** Dillard

**3. Committee** Militia, Police and Public Safety

**4. Title** Transitional and reentry services for criminal offenders

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

The overall goal of the proposed legislation is the establishment of a system of “ample and consistent” transitional and reentry services for offenders being released from state prisons and local jails. The legislation directs the Secretary of Public Safety to establish an integrated system for coordinating the delivery of such services by local and regional jails; the Departments of Corrections, Correctional Education, and Criminal Justice Services; and local nonprofit pre- and post-release services providers.

**6. Fiscal Impact:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

The potential cost of implementing the provisions of this bill could be significant. However, the provisions of the bill are general; without more specific details about what services would need to be developed, it is not feasible to provide a realistic estimate of the bill’s cost. Generally, transition and reentry services include substance abuse treatment and counseling, mental health treatment, job placement, housing, and family counseling, among others. These services are currently provided, to varying extents, by a myriad of state, local, and nonprofit agencies and organizations.

Some overall data provides insight into the potential scope of the bill’s requirements. In 2003, the Department of Corrections released 10,635 offenders from its prisons into society. Local and regional jails also release offenders, but it is not known how many each year are released. However, with an average daily population of 17,478 local-responsible offenders in jails in FY 2004, with most of those offenders serving sentences of less than a year, it is safe to say that 15,000-20,000 a year are released. Some of these state and local offenders receive reentry and transitional services on a limited basis. The legislation would require that all offenders released receive “ample and consistent” services. To establish an integrated system to coordinate such services would require substantial investment in new computer systems and databases, as well as personnel.

One example should provide some idea of the potential cost of providing reentry and transitional services to all released offenders. The Department of Corrections funds several locally-based transitional therapeutic community programs, which provide substance abuse treatment services to offenders both just before they are released from custody and right after their release. The FY 2006 cost of the program will be about \$3 million to serve only about 400 offenders.

It should be noted that the additional costs of providing transitional and reentry services might be largely, if not entirely, offset by reduced costs for the government and society as a whole resulting from lower recidivism. However, there is not enough data currently available to develop a credible projection of any such savings and avoidance of potential costs, which, in any event, would occur several years in the future.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Secretary of Public Safety  
Department of Corrections  
Department of Correctional Education  
Department of Criminal Justice Services  
Local and regional jails

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

**11. Other comments:**

Identical to HB 1842.

The Secretary of Public Safety does not have authority over the provision, or coordination, of transition and reentry services provided by local and regional jails. If the proposed legislation is enacted, it will need to be amended to give the secretary such authority if the provisions relating to local and regional jails are to be implemented.

**Date:** 1/17/05 / rwh

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