

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 691

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: Dance

3. Committee: Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title: Inmate records

5. Summary/Purpose:

The proposed legislation would require the Department of Corrections to provide an inmate, upon his discharge from prison, the following records:

- The inmate's medical records, including copies of his current prescriptions and a physician's summary of continuing or pending medical treatment;
- Verification of the inmate's work history while in prison;
- Certification of all educational and treatment programs completed while in prison.

6. Fiscal impact: Preliminary. See Item 8.

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	\$1,196,000	General
2007-08	\$1,196,000	General
2008-09	\$1,196,000	General
2009-10	\$1,196,000	General
2010-11	\$1,196,000	General
2011-12	\$1,196,000	General

7. Budget amendment necessary: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal implications:

DOC releases approximately 9,200 inmates each year from its prisons. This legislation would result in additional costs and significant increases in the administrative workload. For most prisons, DOC uses contract physicians. DOC estimates that it would take, on the average, an hour for a physician to prepare the summary of continuing or pending medical

treatment that the proposed legislation requires for each inmate upon discharge from prison. At an estimated \$130 per hour, the annual cost to prepare these summaries would equal nearly \$1 million.

The sheer volume of inmates and documents that would need to be copied would increase the administrative workload of the prison staff. The legislation requires that each discharged inmate be provided with a copy of his medical records. According to DOC, the average inmate medical record contains 236 documents and would take an hour or more to copy. Furthermore, the average inmate educational/treatment record contains 10 documents, which could take 10-15 minutes to copy. The total time required to make these copies of records could be equivalent to approximately five positions. It should be kept in mind that the support staff in prisons were cut in previous years due to budget shortfalls. Therefore, the proposed legislation would add to the workload of a support staff already stretched thin.

The legislation also requires that inmates be provided a verification of their work history. During his incarceration, an inmate is likely to be assigned to several different correctional facilities. At each institution, he is likely to have worked at several jobs, ranging from construction and electrical work to mopping floors. Currently, DOC does not keep a complete record of an inmate's work history. It could provide copies of any professional certificates earned through participation in classes offered by the Department of Correctional Education, but anything beyond that would require a significant change in its inmate record keeping system.

DOC is currently in the initial phases of designing and developing an automated inmate information system that, when fully implemented, could produce most of the records required by this legislation, with a minimal amount of manual copying required. However, it will be several years before that system is fully implemented. Furthermore, although the records of inmates committed to DOC after the system's implementation will be in the new system, it is not known now to what extent and how quickly the records of inmates currently in custody will be loaded into it.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections
Local and regional jails

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments:

A large number of inmates that are the responsibility of DOC are housed in local and regional jails, rather than in correctional facilities operated by DOC. According to DOC, about 3,400 state responsible inmates are discharged from jails each year. Presumably the requirements of the proposed legislation would be applicable to those inmates, as well. However, DOC does not staff the jails and does not have ready access to jails' records for those inmates. Therefore, it is not clear how the provisions of the legislation would be implemented for those inmates. If it were the responsibility of the sheriff or the regional jail

superintendent to provide those records, there would be additional costs for them, similar to those for DOC.

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