

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB 691

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

2. **Patron:** Dance

3. **Committee:** Passed both houses

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:

- Verification of the inmate's work history while in prison; and
- Certification of all educational and treatment programs completed while in prison.

6. **Fiscal impact:** Final. See Item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.

8. **Fiscal implications:**

DOC releases approximately 9,200 inmates each year from its prisons. This legislation would result in an increase in the administrative workload of the prison staff. The average inmate educational/treatment record contains 10 documents, which could take 10-15 minutes to copy. Although taken by itself, making copies of these records for one inmate would not be burdensome, as a whole, making these copies for all inmates being released would consume more than 1,500 hours per year, the equivalent of a wage position. It should be kept in mind that the support staffs in prisons were cut in previous years due to budget shortfalls. Therefore, the proposed legislation would just 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, it would require additional staff time for them, similar to DOC.

Date: 02/28/06 / rwh

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