

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2627

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 Reid

3. Committee House Education

4. Title Department of Correctional Education; literacy program.

5. Summary/Purpose: The proposed legislation would raise the standard of the functional literacy program from the eighth grade level to the twelfth grade or GED level. The bill also requires the program to include a strategic plan for encouraging enrollment in college or an accredited vocational training program or other accredited continuing education program.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Preliminary. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes. Item 382.

8. Fiscal implications: Raising the standard for the functional literacy program would add approximately 1760 students to the rolls of the Department of Correctional Education, based upon the numbers of inmates currently on a waiting list or who have tested above the 8th grade but do not have a GED or high school diploma. The increase in participation could be accommodated by the agency if it adjusts its enrollment policies, particularly at lower security level institutions. By accepting fewer inmates with long term sentences (10-20 years) and increasing the number of inmates accepted who have shorter time periods until release, the agency likely would be able to accommodate the increase without the need to hire additional staff.

In addition, the agency operates a GED FASTRACK program at several institutions that provides intense instruction to inmates at higher literacy levels to expedite completion of their GED. The dorm tutoring program could be required for all inmates on waiting lists so they can make progress while waiting to enroll in class. Such actions by the Department of Correctional Education would require the acquisition of additional materials for the dorm programs and GED FASTRACK. The estimated cost is \$50,000.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Correctional Education, Department of Corrections

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

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cc: Secretary of Finance

Secretary of Public Safety