

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB766

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Tata

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: **Fraudulent academic credentials; penalty.**

5. Summary: Makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor (a fine up to \$2,500 and/or up to 12 months in jail) to operate a degree/diploma mill and to issue or manufacture a fraudulent academic credential. Use of a fraudulent academic credential to gain an advantage is a Class 3 misdemeanor (a fine up to \$500). The bill also provides for a civil remedy for damages.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: PRELIMINARY.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: Although insufficient data exists to determine the fiscal impact due to the legislation at this time, the legislation could result in an increase in the jail population. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent FY2006 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 2007), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$28.42 per inmate, per day in FY 2006.

Additional revenues could also be generated due to the proposed penalties. Any fines would go into the Literary Fund and any related fees would go to the general fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local and regional jails, law enforcement agencies statewide, State Compensation Board.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/23/2008 dpb/jgc

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cc: Secretary of Administration
Secretary of Public Safety