

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB769

House of Origin	<u> X </u>	Introduced	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u> </u>	In Committee	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Hurt

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: **Commitment hearing; independent examiner or community services board member attending.**

5. Summary: Commitment hearing; independent examiner or community services board member attending. Requires the independent examiner and the community services board employee or designee who prepared the prescreening report, or if the hearing occurs in a different jurisdiction, an employee or designee of the local community services board or behavioral health authority serving that jurisdiction, to attend the commitment hearing.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Tentative

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

8. Fiscal Implications: May increase CSB costs in regions where boards do not currently attending hearings. According to data from the Supreme Court, there are approximately 20,000 commitment hearings on an annual basis. The Office of the Inspector General determined that 50 percent of CSBs do not attend hearings on a regular basis. Urban CSBs are more likely to attend hearings than rural CSBs, and are less likely to be significantly impacted by this provision. Staffing has been noted as a significant barrier. It is estimated that, on average, each CSB would need at least two additional case managers to effectively attend hearings and case manage clients, or 80 system-wide. The cost per case manager is estimated at \$50,000, for a total of \$4.0 million per year.

To meet recommended standards for caseload system-wide, the Office of the Inspector General estimated an additional 230 case managers would be needed at a cost of \$11.5 million. This increase, however, would address service provision issues beyond those required by this legislation. The Governor's budget provides \$8.8 million in funding for 106 new case managers by the end of the biennium.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Mental Health, Community Services Boards

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: A similar provision is contained in HB499/SB246, the comprehensive mental health reform bill.

Date: 1/24/2008 dpb

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources