

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 1656

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 M. Lohr

3. Committee House Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title Interpreters for non-English speaking defendants

5. Summary/Purpose:

If a defendant is found guilty of a criminal offense and he/she used an interpreter during the judicial proceedings, an interpreter fee is to be assessed and paid by the convicted person as cost of court.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Indeterminant (see Item #8)

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications:

During FY 2006, approximately 55,000 non-English speaking individuals used \$3.3 million worth of interpreter services in criminal matters. No data exists indicating how many of these 55,000 people were actually convicted. The average court language interpreter cost in 2006 was \$61 per case. Using FY06 data as a basis, for every 100 individuals convicted and assuming a 100 percent collection rate, the amount of revenue recovered and posted to the general fund would be \$6,100.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Clerks of Courts

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date/ Initials: 1-10-07 / RMT