

## Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number**      HB 2625

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**     ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron**          Reid

3. **Committee**    Education

4. **Title**            Identification of inmates with learning disabilities

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

The proposed legislation would require the Department of Corrections (DOC) to create a system for identifying prisoners with learning disabilities.

6. **Fiscal Impact:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2007-08	\$500,000	4.0	General
2008-09	\$400,000	4.0	General
2009-10	\$400,000	4.0	General
2010-11	\$400,000	4.0	General
2011-12	\$400,000	4.0	General

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

8. **Fiscal implications:**

The Department of Correctional Education (DCE) is responsible for identifying, and providing for, the educational needs of inmates. The department currently has a simple screening instrument for learning disabilities that is in the public domain. It is assumed that the proposed legislation's requirement for "a system" of identifying inmates with learning disabilities would require that DCE also diagnose any inmate that the screening instrument indicated might have a learning disability. The agency has educational psychologists it uses to diagnose juveniles, but because these positions are paid for out of special education funds, they cannot be used to diagnose adults.

DOC operates four prisons that serve as reception centers for inmates coming into the state correctional centers. At these facilities, inmates are given a variety of tests and given a security classification before being transferred to other facilities for the remainder of their sentences. The department also operates smaller reception units within "regular" prisons. To

provide screening and diagnosis for learning disabilities at the major reception centers, DCE would need a full-time educational psychologist at each facility. To provide those services in the smaller reception units, the agency could contract with educational psychologists on an hourly basis. As part of the first-year costs, DCE would need to purchase adaptive equipment.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Department of Corrections  
Department of Correctional Education

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** None.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 01/30/07 / rwh

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