

Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 528

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

2. Patron: Puller

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Use of mental health professional services

5. Summary:

Current law requires the Department of Corrections to have a treatment program for sex offenders and for the program to be operated under the direction of a psychiatrist or licensed clinical psychologist who is experienced in the diagnosis, treatment, and risk assessment of sex offenders. The proposed legislation would allow the agency to use a licensed professional counselor or licensed clinical social worker, as well as a psychiatrist or clinical psychologist to direct the program.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

8. Fiscal Implications:

The proposal may result in a slight savings because psychiatrists and clinical psychologists have more training than counselors and licensed clinical social workers and thus usually require higher salaries. The primary effect of the proposal will be to provide the agency a larger pool of possible applicants to choose from whenever it is necessary to fill the position.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Corrections

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.