

## Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB679

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

**2. Patron:**        Hanger, E.

**3. Committee:** Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

**4. Title:**         **Restorative Justice**

**5. Summary:** Establishes a restorative justice program for offenders and victims. Provisions address participation, court involvement, confidentiality, and immunity from civil liability.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8)

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Restorative justice programs are intended to facilitate meetings or dialogues between victims of crime and offenders, as well as other individuals and community members, if appropriate, with the goal of addressing the needs of the victim and the community through agreements with the offenders addressing issues such as reparation, restitution and community service.

Assuming this bill simply allows the court to order an offender into an existing restorative justice program funded outside of the court system, the bill would have minimal fiscal impact on court system fiscal resources. This assumption also presumes that these programs will not charge a fee for participation, as is currently the case with existing restorative justice programs. If the court-approved restorative justice program were to charge a fee for the defendant's participation, then court-ordered participation by indigent defendants would have a fiscal impact.

If the assumption of this legislation is that the court system would create and manage these restorative justice programs, then the bill would have significant fiscal impact upon the court system. That exact fiscal impact is indeterminate.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts, Localities

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** The bill, as introduced, does not address victim interest.

**Date:** 2/8/2010

**Document:** G:\2010 FIS\SB679.Doc Reginald Thompson

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