Department of Planning and Budget
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB 944

House of Origin	☒ Introduced	☐ Substitute	☐ Engrossed
Second House	☐ In Committee	☐ Substitute	☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Villanueva

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Sexual violent predator hearing

5. **Summary:**

   An offender who has been convicted of any of several specified sexually violent acts and has been evaluated to be a sexual violent predator is subject to being involuntarily committed to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services. The final determination on commitment is made by a circuit court after a hearing. The proposed legislation would authorize, but not require, the use of a two-way electronic video and audio communication system to provide for the appearance at the hearing of any parties and witnesses.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

8. **Fiscal Implications:**

   The use of two-way video and audio communication systems to conduct hearings could reduce the travel costs of witnesses and the cost of transporting the inmate to the court. However, it is not possible to project the level of these savings. Not all courts have such equipment, but, because the legislation would not require the use of such equipment, the legislation would not have a fiscal impact on them.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

   Department of Corrections
   Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services
   Attorney General's office
   Circuit courts

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

11. Other Comments: None.