

## Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB651

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Norment

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** Office of the Attorney General; employment of outside counsel where a conflict of interests exists.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Attorney General's office to enter into an agreement with outside counsel to provide legal services in a matter when the Attorney General certifies to the Governor that it would be improper for his office to do so because a conflict of interests exists. The compensation for the legal services provided shall be based upon a reasonable fee and shall be expended from funds appropriated to the Attorney General's office.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** See Item 8.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill would require the cost for outside counsel services to be expended from funds appropriated to the Office of the Attorney General. Currently, these costs are paid by the agency requiring the legal services and not the Office of the Attorney General. The number of situations in the future where there is deemed to be a need to utilize outside counsel because of a conflict of interest is not known. In the past year, invoices for these legal services have totaled approximately \$800,000. However, the activity in the past year can be considered to be unusually high. The actual cost of outside counsel in a year where there is not extraordinary activity is more likely to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The extent to which even this level of utilization will continue is not fully known.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Office of the Attorney General and Department of Law.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.