

## Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1670

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

**2. Patron:** Berg

**3. Committee:** Appropriations

**4. Title:** Sheriffs; chief law-enforcement officer of locality.

**5. Summary:** Provides that sheriffs shall always serve as the chief law-enforcement officer of a locality and receive funding in an amount as provided in the general appropriation act to perform in that capacity. The bill limits funding for sheriff's offices to the amount provided in the general appropriation act. The bill also provides that a locality may still establish a police department.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

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

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015			
2016	\$162,819	0	General
2017	\$162,819	0	General
2018	\$162,819	0	General
2018	\$162,819	0	General
2020	\$162,819	0	General
2021	\$162,819	0	General

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Compensation Board, the proposal is expected to have a fiscal impact. Establishing all sheriffs as the chief law-enforcement officer for their locality would require the Compensation Board to pay higher salaries for those sheriffs that are currently not compensated for having law enforcement responsibilities. The cost to provide the higher salary is estimated to be \$162,819 for 37 sheriffs (28 cities and 9 counties).

Additionally, the proposed legislation provides that "*notwithstanding any other provision of law, funding for the sheriff's office shall be in an amount as provided in the general appropriation act.*" Unless the budget is amended to permit funds from local governments to support sheriffs, sheriffs will lose the funds that are currently locally provided. The Compensation Board estimates a minimum shortfall of \$212.6 million in funding if all local support will be eliminated. In January 2014, sheriffs reported to the Compensation Board

that localities were to provide local salary supplements totaling \$110.9 million and for locally funded sheriff office positions totaling \$101.7 million in FY 2015. The amounts are considered conservative since any fringe benefit paid on these salaries are not included. Also not included in the amount reported by sheriffs are health insurance costs that localities are required to pay on behalf of all sheriff office positions, whether state or locally funded, and any locally funded office equipment, or any other expense items for which the Compensation Board does not fund. The bill does not address whether or not the state is to make up the loss of local funds. As a result, these amounts are not reflected in the table above.

This bill does not impact financial assistance provided to localities with police departments through the “599” program, which is administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The current “599” formula does not include data related to services provided by sheriffs.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Compensation Board, sheriff offices and local police departments, and local law enforcement agencies statewide.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: January 20, 2015  
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