Fiscal Estimate - 2005 Session

X	Original		Updated		Corrected		Supplemental
LRB	Number	05-0740/1		Intro	duction Number	AB-	30
Subjec	t						`
First de	egree sexual	assault of a child;	sex predator commi	tments			
Fiscal	Effect						
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Agenc	y/Prepared I	Ву	Aut	horized S	ignature		Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives SPD 2/2/2005

LRB Number	05-0740/1	Introduction Number	AB-30	Estimate Type	Original				
Subject									
First degree sexual assault of a child; sex predator commitments									

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The State Public Defender (SPD) provides legal representation in criminal cases and other specified proceedings in which the loss of personal liberty or parental rights may occur. For adult clients, the SPD must complete a financial eligibility evaluation before appointing an attorney. SPD services are constitutionally required because in the case types handled by SPD, a defendant without the financial means to hire an attorney has the right to have an attorney appointed. Therefore, any bill that would increase the number of cases handled by SPD would increase SPD costs.

The intent of this bill appears to be to discontinue new chapter 980 civil commitment petitions. This provision would result in an annual savings to SPD of \$139,950, which represents the annual cost of SPD representation in 26 such proceedings.

However, these savings might be offset by increased costs in representing clients in sexual assault proceedings. This bill increases the maximum term of imprisonment for first-degree sexual assault of a child by 5 years (by creating a new AB class of felony, with a maximum term of imprisonment of 65 years and maximum initial term of confinement of 45 years). It is likely that because of the higher penalty range and because of the removal of chapter 980 as a back-end safeguard for high-risk offenders, harsher sentences will be imposed in many sexual assault cases. Thus, SPD may incur additional costs in providing representation in sentencing proceedings, related to mitigation specialists and expert witnesses (either or both of whom might be necessary to present a treatment plan to the court in support of a SPD sentencing recommendation). These additional costs cannot be quantified presently, but SPD could estimate them in the future if this proposal is enacted.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications