

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 9/20/2005

LRB Number	05-0139/4	Introduction Number	SB-248	Estimate Type	Original
Subject					
Harboring or aiding a felon					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill expands those who can be charged with the crime of aiding a felon because it eliminates the current exemption for the felon and his or her family members. In addition, the bill increases the penalties for aiding a felon, by increasing certain offenses from Class I to Class H felonies. The bill also removes the court's discretion in sentencing a person who is convicted of aiding a felon by requiring the court to impose both a fine and a term of imprisonment and not allowing the court to place the person on probation.

This bill is likely to lead to increased numbers of proceedings, both because of the broader class of persons who can be charged and because the increased penalties and mandatory prison sentences may lead more persons to challenge the charges. Felony proceedings generally require additional court appearances and more court hearings than misdemeanors. Additional court proceedings require additional judge, court reporter, court staff and juror time. These costs are borne by the state and the county.

An accurate estimate of the increased costs is impossible with existing data. It is expected that existing court staff may be able to absorb the fiscal impact of this bill.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications