27010

(Base) Agency: DATCP - Web Page Maintenance

Recommendations:

Bulle - 2

Paper No. 219: Alternative 2

Comments: Since their web page includes consumer protection info, I guess it's worth having a full-time employee to monitor it. It's not a very high-paying position. But, FB makes a case for using the existing LTE money to partially fund the position (i.e. Alternative 2), rather than all new money (i.e. what the gov proposed).

If someone wants to continue it as just a half-time position (i.e. alternative 3), I suppose that's fine too.

prepared by: Barry



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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May 4, 1999

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #219

Web Page Maintenance (DATCP)

[LFB 1999-01 Budget Summary: Page 105, #26]

CURRENT LAW

DATCP operates a web page with support from a limited-term employe.

GOVERNOR

Provide 1.0 position and \$29,900 PR in 1999-2000 and \$39,900 PR in 2000-01 for DATCP web site maintenance. A site was developed by a limited-term employe and the new position would maintain and update the site regularly. Program revenues are derived from chargebacks to agency programs.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- 1. The Department opened its internet web site in January, 1998. Since then, the home page has been visited an average of at least 55 times per day (the counter does not include those visitors that bypass the home page and go directly to another web page on the site, such as the consumer protection page). The web site maintenance position is requested to enhance the Department's ability to update web site information on a consistent basis, improve web site applications and functions and expand the uses of the web site.
- 2. A one-half time LTE is currently maintaining the web site. While the work the current LTE is doing would be replaced by a permanent position under the bill, LTE funding remains for the position. In 1997-98, DATCP spent \$13,200 in salary and fringe benefits and it is estimated the Department will spend \$15,500 on the LTE position in 1998-99. If the position is granted, current funding of \$15,500 annually could be reallocated to partially fund the permanent position.

3. Another alternative would be to provide a one-half time position (rather than full-time under the bill). This alternative would require \$4,500 PR in 2000-01 and the reallocation of LTE funds. The Department is currently maintaining the web site with a half-time LTE; they could continue with a permanent half-time position. However, DATCP believes without a full-time position, the web site will not be improved or updated as frequently.

ALTERNATIVES TO BASE

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to provide 1.0 position and \$29,900 PR in 1999-2000 and \$39,900 PR in 2000-01 for DATCP web site maintenance.

Alternative 1	<u>PR</u>
1999-01 FUNDING (Change to Base)	\$69,800
[Change to Bill	<i>\$0]</i>
2000-01 POSITIONS (Change to Base)	1.00
[Change to Bill	<i>0.00]</i>

2. Provide 1.0 position and \$14,400 PR in 1999-2000 and \$24,400 PR in 2000-01 for DATCP web site maintenance (\$15,500 in LTE-related funding would be reallocated annually).

Alternative 2	<u>PR</u>
1999-01 FUNDING (Change to Base) [Change to Bill	\$38,800 - <i>\$31,000]</i>
2000-01 POSITIONS (Change to Base) [Change to Bill	1.00 <i>0.00]</i>

3. Provide 0.5 position beginning in 1999-00 and \$4,500 PR in 2000-01 for DATCP web site maintenance (LTE-related funding would be reallocated).

Alternative 3	<u>PR</u>
1999-01 FUNDING (Change to Base)	\$4,500
[Change to Bill	- \$65,300]
2000-01 POSITIONS (Change to Base)	0.50
[Change to Bill	- 0.50]

4. Maintain current law.

Alternative 4	<u>PR</u>
1999-01 FUNDING (Change to Base)	\$0
[Change to Bill	<i>- \$69,800]</i>
2000-01 POSITIONS (Change to Base)	0.00
[Change to Bill	- 1.00]

Prepared by: David Schug

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