

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 2/8/2005

LRB Number 05-0200/1	Introduction Number AB-36	Estimate Type Original
Subject Jail prisoner classification		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law, a county jail must keep certain prisoners separate from other prisoners. Prisoners who have not been convicted must be kept separate from those who have, prisoners who are mentally ill must be kept separate from prisoners who are not mentally ill, and prisoners of different genders, with some exceptions, must be kept separate.

This bill would require that all county jails establish a prisoner classification system by January 1, 2008. These classification systems would be used to determine prisoner housing assignments, the type of supervision necessary, and the delivery of services and programs to the prisoners. These systems are based on measurable criteria.

The Department of Corrections' Office of Detention Facilities may be responsible for overseeing the development of new administrative rules, assisting with training on system development, and reviewing and approving counties' classification proposals. The Department can not determine what the state fiscal impact will be of these oversight responsibilities.

Approximately 20-25 counties in the state are currently utilizing objective jail classification (OJC) which provides a more comprehensive way to assess inmate risk and need within a facility and meets higher standards of correctional practice and management, as well as liability reduction. This includes larger counties such as Milwaukee, Dane, Rock, Kenosha, and Brown as well as smaller counties such as Dunn, St. Croix, and Jefferson.

Individual counties which still need to implement OJC will likely incur additional costs when replacing their existing segregation systems with new systems that comply with the proposed statutes. These counties will need to develop a plan for a new system, train staff, and implement the new system. Some counties may choose to develop manually-driven systems while other counties may implement automated systems. Because there is such a large variation in the amount of resources each county may need, based on local development and implementation decisions, it is not possible to determine local costs.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications