

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

CTS 2/20/2006

LRB Number 05-2227/3	Introduction Number SB-450	Estimate Type Original
Description Construction liens, requirements for securing payment for work on publicly financed projects, and providing a penalty		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill makes a number of substantive and procedural changes to construction liens. Included in the changes is an expansion of the conduct that may be considered theft by contractors.

This change may lead to more criminal proceedings for the crime of theft by contractor (chargeable as theft under s. 943.20). It may be necessary for the court to conduct additional hearings if additional charges are brought under the wording of this bill. It is unknown how many criminal cases will be subject to the terms of this bill. Additional proceedings require additional judge, court reporter, court staff and juror time. Felony proceedings generally require additional court appearances and more court hearings than misdemeanors. These costs are borne by both the state and the county. An accurate estimate of the additional costs is impossible with the data available.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications