## Fiscal Estimate - 2007 Session

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<b>Descr</b> i Crime		ation procedure	es .	j.				
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DOC/ Cathy Halpin (608) 240-5538				Robert Margol	3/4/2008			

## Fiscal Estimate Narratives DOC 3/4/2008

LRB Number 07-3954/1	Introduction Number	AB-0815	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Crime victim notification proced	ures			

## **Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate**

Under current law, a victim of a crime may be notified of certain events, such as an offender's parole interview, release, or community supervision status, if the victim opts to complete and return a card provided by district attorneys or clerks of court. This bill requires a district attorney or clerk to assist the victim in completing the card unless the victim opts not to do so.

Currently, 15,000 victims are registered with the Department. During FY07 approximately 200-250 new victims registered each month and the Department provided approximately 12,750 notifications to victims of offender status changes during the period October 2006 through September 2007. Approximately 99% of current victim notifications are sent by U.S. mail with the remaining notifications sent electronically. U.S. mail costs were estimated to be \$5,200 during the period. It should be noted that most notifications result in at least one telephone call from the victim to the Department for clarification or education on the process.

Current staffing in the Department's Office of Victim Services include 3.0 FTE Victim Service Specialist 1s, 1.0 FTE Corrections Program Specialist, 1.0 FTE Corrections Services Supervisor and the equivalent of 1.0 LTE Victim Services Specialist 1.

While the Department cannot estimate the number of victims who will opt out of receiving updates on offenders when district attorney staff explain and complete the card alongside the victim, the Department does anticipate substantial growth in the number of victims who register for offender updates.

For illustrative purposes, if the number of registrants grows by 10%, registrations will increase from approximately 225 per month to approximately 250 per month [300 additional victims annually]. If instead, registrations grow by 50%, approximately 338 victims will register each month [1,356 additional victims annually].

Assuming that the newly registered victims receive notification of an offender's status change at the same rate as was sent during the October 2006 through September 2007 period discussed above [12,750 notifications sent to 15,000 registrants or approximately 85% rate], mailing costs would increase approximately \$100/annually [300 new registrants \* \$0.41 \* 85%] and \$475/annually [1,356 new registrants \* \$0.41 \* 85%], respectively. The increased workload from this bill may result in a need for additional staff.

There is no local jail impact as the result of this legislation.

## Long-Range Fiscal Implications