

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
DOC 5/14/2007

LRB Number 07-0702/1	Introduction Number AB-0226	Estimate Type Original
Description Vehicle registration plates for certain sex offenders and providing penalties		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires that effective July 1, 2007 all sex offenders who are already being tracked on a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracking device or who are placed on a GPS device after that date, must have chartreuse colored license plates on any vehicle that is registered in his or her name or any vehicle operated by the sex offender.

The bill makes it a Class G felony if a sex offender on GPS tracking owns a vehicle and intentionally violates the requirement to replace the license plate with the new chartreuse colored plate, punishable by a maximum of 5 years confinement and 5 years of extended supervision. The bill makes it a Class H felony for a sex offender on GPS tracking to operate a motor vehicle on a highway unless the vehicle displays chartreuse colored license colored plates, punishable by a maximum of 3 years of confinement and 3 years of extended supervision.

Production of Chartreuse License Plates

The Department of Corrections, Badger State Industries, already produces license plates and specialty license plates for the Department of Transportation. DOC does not anticipate any additional costs associated with these special chartreuse colored license plates.

Penalty Provisions

The Department currently has 40 sex offenders on GPS tracking. Under current law, the Department of Corrections estimates that by the end of FY 2009, 956 additional sex offenders will be subject to GPS tracking. It is not possible to estimate how many of these offenders will own or operate vehicles that will require the new chartreuse colored license plates or how many would violate this provision. While it is assumed that this legislation could result in increased prison populations and increased costs to the Department, it is not possible to project the fiscal impact.

The FY06 annual cost for an inmate in a DOC institution is approximately \$27,600. When there is excess capacity in DOC facilities, the incremental costs (i.e. food, health care and clothing) of housing a small number of inmates is approximately \$4,500. This is based on FY06 per capita rates for these items. When there is no excess capacity in DOC facilities, as is currently the case, the Department uses contract beds at a rate of \$18,800 annually per person.

It is also assumed that this legislation could result in increased jail populations when violations occur. It is not, however, possible to project the number of violations or the associated increased costs to local county jails.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications