

Fiscal Estimate - 2017 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number 17-4858/1	Introduction Number AB-0792
Description allowing certain prisoners to earn time toward early release from confinement in prison	
Fiscal Effect	
State: <input type="checkbox"/> No State Fiscal Effect <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Appropriations <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Existing Revenues <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Create New Appropriations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs	
Local: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Local Government Costs <input type="checkbox"/> Indeterminate 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Costs 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Revenue 5. Types of Local Government Units Affected <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Towns <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Cities 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Costs 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Decrease Revenue <input type="checkbox"/> Counties <input type="checkbox"/> Others <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> Permissive <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory <input type="checkbox"/> School Districts <input type="checkbox"/> WTCS Districts	
Fund Sources Affected Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GPR <input type="checkbox"/> FED <input type="checkbox"/> PRO <input type="checkbox"/> PRS <input type="checkbox"/> SEG <input type="checkbox"/> SEGS 410	
Agency/Prepared By DOC/ Jokisch Jacob (608) 240-5415	Authorized Signature Donald Friske (608) 240-5056
Date 1/25/2018	

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DOC 1/25/2018

LRB Number	17-4858/1	Introduction Number	AB-0792	Estimate Type	Original
Description allowing certain prisoners to earn time toward early release from confinement in prison					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill allows certain prisoners who participate in educational or other programs to earn time off the confinement portion of their sentences.

Under current law, a person who is imprisoned for a felony he or she committed on or after December 31, 1999, is sentenced to a bifurcated sentence, with the first portion of the sentence served in confinement in prison and the second portion of the sentence served under extended supervision in the community. A person who is serving a bifurcated sentence, with few exceptions, must serve the entire confinement portion of his or her sentence before being released to extended supervision.

This bill requires the Department of Corrections to identify evidence-based programs that reduce the rate of recidivism among participants. Under the bill, a prisoner who is sentenced to confinement in prison for a misdemeanor or for a Class C to Class I felony may earn time off of the confinement portion of his or her sentence not to exceed 15 percent, at a rate determined by DOC, if he or she participates in one or more of the programs DOC identifies. Under the bill, if a person's confinement period is reduced by DOC, his or her period of extended supervision is increased so that the length of the sentence does not change.

The DOC projects an indeterminate decrease in its prison population as a result of this bill. The DOC, as of 12/31/17, had 23,182 inmates. Of those inmates, 18,847 inmates did not have a conviction for a Class A or Class B felony and thus would be eligible to have up to 15 percent of their prison sentence converted to extended supervision. These 18,847 inmates had an average prison sentence of 6.83 years. The DOC is unable to determine the fiscal impact of this bill because the DOC has not determined which of its educational or other evidence-based programming and the assigned number of days earned would be included in the proposed bill's recidivism reduction programming. Calculating any possible reduction in prison length is further complicated because 4,278 of these inmates are already eligible to have a portion of their prison sentence converted to extended supervision through the Earned Release Program (Wis. Stat. 302.05).

The average FY17 annual cost for an inmate in a DOC institution is approximately \$32,700. However, if there is a small decrease in population, the incremental costs (i.e. food, health care and clothing) of housing a small number of inmates is approximately \$6,300 per inmate based on FY17 costs. Should the Department realize a reduction in contract beds, the rate would be approximately \$18,800 annually per person. If there are additional offenders on community supervision, the average FY17 annual cost to supervise one offender is approximately \$3,100.

This bill will have no local fiscal impact. The bill only effects offenders in prison and does not affect offenders sentenced to jail.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications