



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #155

Information Technology Support (BCPL)

Bill Agency

[LFB 2007-09 Budget Summary: Page 59, #2]

CURRENT LAW

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) has a base budget of \$1.5 million with 7.5 PR positions.

GOVERNOR

Provide \$100,000 PR annually primarily for information technology support.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The Governor recommends providing funds for BCPL to either contract for, or hire limited-term employees (LTEs) to perform, information technology support. BCPL maintains the original state land records, oversees approximately 77,000 acres of state land, manages four trust funds with assets of over \$650 million on July 1, 2006, and oversees a grant and loan program to schools, libraries and state higher education institutions. The Board was authorized 10.0 positions in 2002-03, and has 7.5 permanent staff currently.

2. The Board has a number of computer based programs to manage financial and geographic information systems that are not typically used by other state agencies. BCPL currently manages its information technology systems through an individual who has been on staff full-time since 2003 as a "double" LTE (an LTE may only work 1,040 hours per year). The Board has transferred funding from supplies each year to pay the salary of this person. Board officials indicate

this person's experience and expertise with its automated systems would be difficult to replace. However, as an LTE the employee does not receive full state benefits and has limited job security. Board officials express concern this person could seek permanent employment elsewhere and BCPL would have difficulty finding an LTE replacement with comparable skills. Further, the information systems management function is a long-term continuing need of the agency and not appropriate for LTE staffing. Therefore, the Committee could consider transferring \$97,500 annually from supplies to support the salary and fringe benefits for 1.0 permanent information systems services specialist. Further, the \$100,000 annually for LTE or contract services under the bill could be deleted.

3. If no additional funding is provided, BCPL would likely continue to reallocate existing supplies funding in order to maintain the information systems staffing on an LTE basis, if possible.

ALTERNATIVES TO BILL

1. Adopt the Governor's recommendation to provide \$100,000 annually primarily for contract or LTE information technology support.

ALT 1	Change to Bill	Change to Base
	Funding	Funding
PR	\$0	\$200,000

2. Delete \$100,000 annually, but provide 1.0 information systems services specialist. Associated salary and fringe benefits of \$97,500 annually would be transferred from the BCPL supplies allotment.

ALT 4	Change to Bill		Change to Base	
	Funding	Positions	Funding	Positions
PR	-\$200,000	1.00	\$0	1.00

3. Delete provision.

ALT 3	Change to Bill	Change to Base
	Funding	Funding
PR	-\$200,000	\$0

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