

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 12, 2007
POSITION: Oppose
SPONSOR: California Foundation for Independent Living Centers, Center for Disability Issues in the Health Professions.

BILL NUMBER: SB 426
AUTHOR: C. Kehoe

BILL SUMMARY: Emergency Services: Access and Functional Needs

This bill would require the Director of the Office of Emergency Services (OES) to create the position of Deputy Director for Access and Functional Needs Coordination, who would be responsible for creating an access and functional needs state plan, as well as overseeing and implementing emergency preparedness and response activities related to persons with functional limitations and disabilities.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill specifies the Legislature's intent to utilize federal homeland security grant funds, to the extent permitted by federal law, to fund the costs associated with implementation of this bill. However, should those federal funds not be made available, this bill would result in additional General Fund costs of approximately \$292,000 in 2007-08; and \$516,000 in 2008-09. The OES also indicates it would need two additional positions in 2007-08 and four in 2008-09.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the March 28, 2007 version include the following minor amendments which do not alter our position:

- Clarifying the types of disabilities and functional limitations that people have which necessitate advanced planning, education, and training of emergency personnel to assist them in timely and adequate evacuation during an emergency.
Clarifying that individuals with functional limitations live independently in the community as well as in congregate facilities and institutional settings.
Revising the duties of the Deputy Director position to include ensuring that access and functional needs are included in all state plans related to emergency preparedness, planning, and response and overseeing the training of emergency personnel regarding access and functional needs.
Extending the reporting requirements of the Deputy Director to include the effectiveness and implementation of access and functional needs in all state plans and activities related to emergency preparedness, planning, and response.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this bill for the following reasons:

- To the extent that federal funds are not available to fund the costs associated with this bill, this bill would result in additional General Fund costs of approximately \$292,000 in 2007-08 and \$516,000 in 2008-09 and annually thereafter.
This bill may be unnecessary. The OES is already currently addressing efforts for preparedness, response, and recovery for all Californians including persons with disabilities. In addition, the

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
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Department Deputy Director Date

Governor's Office: By: Date: Position Approved
Position Disapproved

BILL ANALYSIS Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

C. Kehoe

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California Department of Rehabilitation's Community Access Network's volunteers are trained to evaluate workplaces for anything that may be hazardous to individuals with disabilities.

Under current law, the OES is responsible for coordinating and overseeing emergency preparedness and response activities in the state. Chapter 600, Statutes of 2006 (SB 1451, Kehoe) required the Director of OES to appoint representatives of the disabled community to serve on Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) committees and to produce a report containing recommendations regarding preparedness, planning, procedures, and provisions of accessible information on emergency evacuation pertaining to individuals with disabilities for the Legislature and state and local agencies by January 1, 2009.

This bill would require the Director of Emergency Services to create the position of Deputy Director for Access and Functional Needs Coordination to do the following:

- Create an access and functional needs state plan, overseeing the training of emergency personnel for its implementation, and coordinating with state and local agencies to ensure that the plan is included in all state disaster preparedness documents and training.
- Oversee and ensure adequate planning that incorporates the diverse needs of people with functional limitations and disabilities in all state preparedness, response, and recovery activities.
- Ensure that community-based organizations serving populations with functional limitations and disabilities are integrated into the planning and implementation of all state disaster preparedness documents and training.
- Coordinate the disability community participation in the SEMS specialist committees.
- Track and report annually to the Legislature on the committee recommendations, and the effectiveness and implementation of the access and functional needs state plan.
- Create functional assessment and service teams to consist of trained and registered community-based organizations and non-governmental organization personnel ready to respond to and be deployed to disaster areas. These teams would plan for and offer service assistance to populations with functional limitations during emergencies.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code	
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)								
	CO	PROP	2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009			
	RV	98	FC	FC	FC	FC				
0690/OES	SO	No		--	C	\$292	C	\$516	0001	