

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS**

**AMENDMENT DATE:** January 28, 2008  
**POSITION:** Oppose

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 902  
**AUTHOR:** A. Padilla  
**RELATED BILLS:** SB 828 (2007)

**BILL SUMMARY: Firefighters: Accelerant Detecting Dogs**

Existing law requires drug and law enforcement canines and their handlers to follow set protocols. This bill would require the State Fire Marshal (SFM) to update the standards and procedures for arson dogs and their handlers.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

According to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the requirements of this bill could be performed within existing resources.

**SUMMARY OF CHANGES**

Amendments to this bill since our analysis of the January 7, 2008 version are minor and do not alter our position. The deadline to update the standards would now be delayed by one year to January 1, 2011.

**COMMENTS**

Finance opposes this bill because it is unnecessary.

This bill would require the SFM, in conjunction with other recognized statewide fire investigation entities including the California State Firefighters' Association, to update and amend the standards and procedures for accelerant detecting canines and their handlers by January 1, 2011. The SFM, in updating the standards and procedures, would be required to consider information from and publications by recognized statewide fire investigation entities. A similar bill, SB 828 (Padilla, 2007), was vetoed by the Governor. In his veto message, the Governor stated:

This bill is unnecessary. CAL FIRE and the State Fire Marshal have existing authority to update their standards and certification requirements as they deem appropriate. Indeed, these standards were updated only five years ago.

Nonetheless, I am directing the State Fire Marshal to review the current standards and, if necessary, work with all interested stakeholders to update and amend them to reflect the latest applicable fire investigative techniques.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
		(Dollars in Thousands)							
	LA	PROP		FC		FC			
	CO	98	FC	2007-2008	FC	2008-2009	FC	2009-2010	
	RV								
3540/Forest&Fire	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0001

Analyst/Principal (0634) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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