

**DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS**

**AMENDMENT DATE:** March 25, 2010  
**POSITION:** Neutral

**BILL NUMBER:** AB 2217  
**AUTHOR:** F. Fuentes

**BILL SUMMARY: Jurors: Electronic Communications**

This bill would require a court to explain to a jury that the prohibition on research, dissemination of information, and conversation during a trial applies to all forms of electronic and wireless communication. The bill would make other related changes and make disobedience by a juror of these requirements a misdemeanor.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

The Judicial Council does not anticipate a significant fiscal impact. Finance expects this work to be minor and absorbable as it would clarify existing court practices and instructions.

**COMMENTS**

This bill would change statute to reflect court practices where courts have admonished jurors against the specified use of electronic and wireless devices. This would include allowing a court to hold a juror in contempt should he or she not obey the court's instructions in this matter, which is a misdemeanor. This change appears to be consistent with existing law, which requires courts to admonish jurors that it is their duty not to converse with anyone on the subject of the trial.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP	2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		
	RV	98	FC	FC	FC	FC			
0250/Jud Branch	SO	No	-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0001	

Analyst/Principal (0211)J. Osborn	Date	Assistant Program Budget Manager Z. Theodorovic	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)