

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Neutral, note concerns

BILL NUMBER: AB 2276
AUTHOR: N. Fletcher

BILL SUMMARY: Arson

This bill would require that arsonist registration information be made available to all chief fire officials in the state. The bill also would make technical changes.

FISCAL SUMMARY

Although the Department of Justice (DOJ) has not provided a fiscal estimate, depending on the expectations associated with this new requirement, Finance believes that this bill could potentially result in General Fund costs. This is not for certain, because it is not clear at this time that the bill would require additional information technology workload and resources by the DOJ on behalf of the fire officials. For example, if fire officials seeking access to this information must make use of existing local law enforcement resources to obtain access, this should not result in additional costs to the state.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral at this time, but notes concerns about the potential for General Fund costs. It is unclear what level of effort this bill would require for DOJ, and therefore the potential costs are unknown. However, to provide new hardware and maintenance to a number of fire stations would result in significant costs. Finance does not believe this level of effort is expected, but it is not clear whether fire stations would be expected to use existing law enforcement resources to access the information, which would likely result in minimal state costs.

Under existing law, a convicted arsonist is required to register with local law enforcement agencies and provide residency information as well as a photograph and fingerprints. This information is then transmitted to DOJ and made available for inspection only to law enforcement officers. There are approximately 3,300 registered arsonist records currently.

This bill would require DOJ to make this registry information available to chief fire officials of legally organized fire departments or fire protection districts in the state.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)								Fund Code
	SO	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	LA	CO	PROP	FC	2009-2010	FC	2010-2011	FC	
0820/Justice	SO	No	-----	Unknown, See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001

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

Department Deputy Director	Date
----------------------------	------

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

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