

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 2326
AUTHOR: K. Bass

BILL SUMMARY: Reentry Advisory Committee

This bill would require the Reentry Advisory Committee (RAC) to apply for federal funds, develop a comprehensive strategic reentry plan to reduce the state's recidivism rate, develop a comprehensive resource guide for the use of organizations concerned with reentry issues, and submit a report to the Legislature, as specified. This bill would also add three members to the RAC and extend the sunset date for the committee to January 1, 2016.

FISCAL SUMMARY

We note that the specific fiscal impact of this bill is unknown, but could potentially be significant. Specifically, this measure mandates that the RAC seek and apply for federal funding, but does not make the large scale additional duties imposed upon the RAC contingent upon obtaining such funding. Therefore, it is possible that the RAC may not obtain any additional funding, but will still be required to perform the additional duties and complete the additional reports required by this bill.

Also, we also note that the 2009 Budget Act includes one position and approximately \$77,000 General Fund to support the RAC within the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR). The CDCR has indicated that due to budget constraints, the RAC meetings were cancelled during the current fiscal year and the University of California Davis contract for meeting facilitation is in the process of being closed out. At this time, all future meetings have been suspended. Moreover, the CDCR has used the savings from the elimination of these meetings and the termination of the one support staff to help meet the requirements of their \$100 million unallocated budget reduction. Due to the termination of the support staff and the cancellation of the meetings, the RAC would not be able to meet the requirements of this measure unless new resources are provided. Any request for additional resources by the CDCR, whether for new General Fund authority or additional Federal Fund authority, would be subject to review and approval through the annual budget process.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is opposed to this measure because it would require the RAC to implement significant new responsibilities without making the new workload contingent upon receiving a Federal Second Chance Act of 2007 grant. Moreover, the RAC is currently in the process of being eliminated due to budget cuts within CDCR. As such, this measure could create a pressure to provide additional General Fund resources to reactivate the RAC and to ensure that they fulfill their new responsibilities.

On April 9, 2008, President Bush signed the Second Chance Act of 2007 into law. This legislation authorizes federal grants to government agencies and community and faith-based organizations to provide employment assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing, family programming, mentoring, victims support, and other services that can help reduce re-offending and violations of probation and parole. Ultimately, the measure is designed to improve outcomes for people returning to the community from prisons and jails.

Analyst/Principal (0234) Date Assistant Program Budget Manager Date

Department Deputy Director Date

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

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

K. Bass

Original

AB 2326

COMMENTS (continued)

Existing state law:

- Requires the Secretary of the CDCR to establish a RAC.
- Requires the RAC to meet at least quarterly at a time and place determined by the Secretary.
- Provides that the RAC shall advise the Secretary on all matters related to the successful statewide planning, implementation and outcomes of all re-entry programs and services offered by CDCR.
- Sunsets the RAC on January 1, 2011.

This bill would:

- Require the RAC to issue advisory reports, as specified, to the Governor and the Legislature whenever it deems appropriate, but not less frequently than annually.
- Expand the RAC membership by three members, as specified.
- Require the RAC to develop a comprehensive resource guide for community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, service providers, law enforcement agencies, and industry and governmental entities working to address the issues of reentry through programs, service delivery, or both programs and service delivery.
- Require the RAC to immediately apply for federal funding available through the Federal Second Chance Act of 2007.
- Require the RAC to develop a comprehensive strategic reentry plan, as specified.
- Require the RAC to submit an annual report to the Legislature and the United States Attorney General detailing the progress toward strategic performance outcomes and describing activities by grantees to increase reentry success rates.
- Extend the sunset date for the RAC from January 1, 2011 to January 1, 2016.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO RV	PROP 98	FC	2009-2010 FC	2010-2011 FC	2011-2012 FC			
5225/Corr & Rehab	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----	0001			
5225/Corr & Rehab	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----	0890			
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
0890	Trust Fund, Federal								