

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 21, 2010
POSITION: Neutral, note concerns

BILL NUMBER: SB 907
AUTHOR: C. Liu
RELATED BILLS: SB 1084

BILL SUMMARY: Office of Federal Funding Information and Assistance

This bill, upon a specified determination by the Department of Finance (Finance), would establish the Office of Federal Funding Information and Assistance (OFFIA) within the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to increase the capacity of eligible entities to successfully apply for federal funds.

This measure would provide that the OFFIA would not be established until Finance determines that sufficient non-General Fund resources will be deposited with the state on an annual basis to support the OFFIA's activities.

FISCAL SUMMARY

At this time, OPR does not have an estimate of this measure's potential costs. We note that the 2010-11 Governor's Budget proposes to eliminate OPR and transfer a portion of its functions to other state agencies effective January 1, 2011.

We further note that the workload requirements of the OFFIA would be classified as state operations. Federal grant awards typically have percentage limits on the amount that can be allocated for state operations costs and generally these funds are limited to oversight activities specific to the purpose for which the grant is provided, not for general activities meant to identify and obtain federal funds.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance notes concern that this bill would result in cost pressures relative to creating a new office to specifically seek federal fund opportunities. Additionally, the need for this measure is unclear, because agencies under the Governor's Administration are already responsible for researching and applying for available federal funding.

This bill would establish the OFFIA within OPR after Finance determines that private funds, federal funds, or other non-General Fund moneys in an amount to fully support the activities of the office have been deposited with the state on an annual basis. The bill does not specify how the private funds, federal funds, or non-General Fund moneys are to be identified, solicited, tracked, and made available to the state for this specified purpose.

This bill would require the OFFIA to do the following:

- Track the state's availability and success rate of obtaining federal funding.
Create and maintain an Internet web site of federal funding opportunities, resources and technical information as well as an electronic mail list of individuals and entities that want such a list.
Provide a monthly newsletter and e-mail alert.
Provide technical assistance by conducting workshops, seminars, and conferences.
Engage in other activities to increase the capacity of state entities to receive federal funds.

Analyst/Principal Date Assistant Program Budget Manager Date
(0212)J. Osborn

Department Deputy Director Date

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

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

BILL ANALYSIS/ENROLLED BILL REPORT--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

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SB 907

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	
8860/Finance	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001
0650/OPR	SO	No	-----	See Fiscal Summary	-----				0001