

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/26/2012  
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 1817  
AUTHOR: Atkins, Toni  
RELATED BILLS: AB 1434 (Feuer) AB  
1435 (Dickinson) AB  
1628 (Beall) AB 1713  
(Campos) AB 1264  
(Vargas) AB 1743  
(Campos)

**BILL SUMMARY: Child abuse reporting.**

This bill would include image processors and commercial computer technicians in the definition of a mandated reporter under the Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Act (CANRA). This bill would also expand the definition of a film, photographic print, and image processor.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and Department of Justice indicate this bill would have no fiscal impact to their departments.

This bill would have a minor, absorbable fiscal impact to the Department of Social Services for the cost of updating regulations to include the newly required mandated reporters. This bill would also likely have a minor impact to counties as the provisions would add mandated reporters, which could result in county welfare agencies fielding more mandated reporter calls and conducting more investigations as part of their caseload. Child welfare investigations are a part of the Child Welfare Services program which was fully shifted to counties as part of 2011 Realignment.

This bill could have a fiscal impact to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the extent it results in more individuals admitted to prison for child abuse. By increasing the number of mandated reporters, more cases of previously unreported child abuse would be reported to county child welfare agencies resulting in more investigations, which would lead to more prosecutions, and result in more convictions of child abuse.

Any local government costs resulting from the crime mandate in this measure would not be state-reimbursable because the mandate only involves the definition of a crime or the penalty for conviction of a crime.

**COMMENTS**

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill because it could increase public safety by adding additional mandated reporters to the CANRA.

Existing law establishes the CANRA, which is intended to protect children from abuse and neglect. CANRA generally defines a mandated reporter as a person who by virtue of their position or profession has a responsibility toward children. Existing law further requires any mandated reporter who has knowledge

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**COMMENTS** (continued)

of, or observes a child whom he or she knows, or reasonably expects, has been the victim of abuse to report the incident to specified child protection agencies.

The author's office states that laws designed for traditional print media are no longer adequate since the vast majority of sexual exploitation of children is now hidden on personal computers and on the internet.

Related bills, AB 1713 (Campos) and AB 1435 (Dickinson) of the current legislative session, are scheduled to be heard at the same hearing. AB 1713 would make digital image processors a mandated reporter of child abuse and neglect. AB 1435 would make an athletic coach, athletic administrator, or athletic director employed by a public or private organization, including but not limited to schools and institutions of higher education, a mandated reporter as well. Several other bills, AB 1628 (Beall), AB 1743 (Campos), and SB 1264 (Vargas), would also make various changes to CANRA.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)						
	CO	PROP						
	RV	98	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	FC	2014-2015
0820/Justice	SO	No		----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	----		0001
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No		----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	----		0001
5196/St-LC 2011	SO	No		----	See Fiscal Summary	----		3171
5225/Corr & Rehab	SO	No		----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	----		0001
8885/Comm St Mndt	LA	No		----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	----		0001
<u>Fund Code</u>		<u>Title</u>						
0001		General Fund						
3171		Local Revenue Fund 2011						