

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: June 21, 2011
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: AB 826
AUTHOR: T. Atkins

BILL SUMMARY: Mentally Ill Parolees

This bill would authorize the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to create an Integrated Services for Mentally Ill Parolees (ISMIP) program. This bill would also require ISMIP service providers to report to CDCR on the outcomes of services and requires CDCR to file an annual report with the Legislature.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have no fiscal impact on the state because CDCR already contracts for ISMIP services.

COMMENTS

Notwithstanding the fact that this measure merely authorizes CDCR to create an ISMIP program, the Department of Finance is opposed to this bill because it is unnecessary, and if implemented would be overly prescriptive, as there is statute already in place giving CDCR the authority to contract for day treatment and crisis care services for parolees with mental health problems. In addition, even though this measure is attempting to codify some of CDCR's existing practices, codifying existing practices could place unnecessary restrictions on CDCR's ability to adjust how their program operates in the future. This is especially important in light of realignment where CDCR's parolee population could be reduced by nearly 70 percent upon full implementation of AB 109 (Chapter 15, Statutes of 2011). Moreover, due to the significant reduction in population within CDCR as a result of realignment, any measure that attempts to codify existing CDCR practices, or establish a new program within CDCR, should be viewed as premature, as it is unclear at this time whether CDCR's current programs and structure would remain cost effective or even be appropriate for the remaining offenders under their jurisdiction.

Existing law authorizes CDCR to obtain day treatment and contract for crisis care services for parolees with mental health problems. Existing law specifies that day treatment and crisis care services should be designed to reduce parolee recidivism. Lastly, existing law specifies that CDCR shall work with counties to obtain day treatment and crisis care services for parolees with the goal of extending the services upon completion of the offender's period of parole, if needed.

This bill would authorize CDCR to create an ISMIP program that provides varied levels of care, supportive and transitional housing, and an array of mental health rehabilitative services that assist with the development of independent living in the least restrictive environment possible, as provided. This bill would also require that specific services be provided to qualified mentally ill parolees by providers selected by CDCR. In addition, this bill would require each service provider to report to CDCR on the outcomes of services and requires CDCR to file an annual report with the Legislature. Lastly, this bill would provide that the provisions of this bill would only be operative when the Legislature appropriates funding in the Budget Act for each fiscal year.

Analyst/Principal Date Program Budget Manager Date
(0236) J. Howard Lisa Ann L. Mangat

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

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP							
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	
5225/Corr & Rehab	SO	No		-----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	-----		0001