

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 06/27/2012
POSITION: Oppose

BILL NUMBER: SB 542
AUTHOR: Price, Curren

BILL SUMMARY: Inmate Welfare Fund.

This bill would authorize Inmate Welfare Fund (IWF) monies to be spent on reentry, hobby, and athletic programs until January 1, 2018. This bill would further specify Legislative intent that IWF monies only be expended on services that the California Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (CDCR) is not required to provide. Additionally, this bill would require the warden of each institution to meet with stakeholders at least biannually to determine how IWF monies are spent.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The CDCR anticipates any additional costs as a result of this bill would be minor and absorbable.

This bill would authorize the IWF to be used for reentry programs, which CDCR currently provides using General Fund. To the extent that the IWF could also be used to fund existing reentry programs, this bill could reduce General Fund cost pressure. However, the intent of this bill is for IWF monies to fund services CDCR is not currently required to provide and it is likely that IWF monies would be used to supplement, rather than supplant, General Fund expenditures for reentry programs. Additionally, because this bill authorizes new activities to be funded from the IWF, such as athletic programs, existing services provided through the IWF may be adversely impacted.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance (DOF) is opposed to this bill because it unnecessarily expands the scope of what IWF monies are authorized to be used for as CDCR already provides services similar or identical to those proposed in this bill. Additionally, the IWF expenditure authorizations contemplated in this bill are substantially different than those intended when the IWF was established.

According to the author's office, this bill is needed to address the issue of providing inmates with needed educational, recreational, and reentry services during incarceration and in preparation for their release into the community. Specifically, the author's office is concerned that CDCR is not providing sufficient resources for inmates released on Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS).

We note that the CDCR recently restructured its educational and reentry programming as part of its realignment downsizing plan, known as the "Blueprint". We feel strongly that CDCR will be able to offer appropriate educational and reentry services for inmates prior to their release on PRCS. Further, the amendments proposed in this bill could be interpreted as placing sole responsibility on the IWF for educational and reentry programs which are not currently required, such as certain cognitive behavioral programs.

Existing law:

- Establishes the IWF and requires monies in the IWF to be used for the benefit, education and welfare of CDCR inmates.

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|--------------------------------------|------|---|---|
| Analyst/Principal (0233) J.Howard | Date | Program Budget Manager Lisa Ann Mangat | Date |
| Department Deputy Director | | Date | |
| Governor's Office: | By: | Date: | Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____ |
| BILL ANALYSIS | | | Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff) |

Price, Curren

06/27/2012

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COMMENTS (continued)

- Requires all net proceeds from the operation of canteens and hobby shops and any money which may be assigned to the prison by prisoners to be deposited in the IWF.
- Requires the DOF to conduct a biennial audit of the fund and, at the end of each intervening fiscal year, to prepare a statement of operations.

This bill would:

- Authorize IWF monies to be spent on specified reentry services, recreational supplies, and athletic supplies that CDCR is not currently required to provide.
- Specify the IWF can be used for reentry services that assist inmates in obtaining or reinstating benefits, obtaining identification cards, linking inmates to services related to obtaining housing upon release, providing education and job training, coordinating contact with family members, and providing information about how to connect to social services, legal services, and connecting inmates with outside community health care providers upon their release from prison.
- Require the warden of each institution and stakeholders to meet at least biannually to determine how the IWF is used in that institution.
- Sunset on January 1, 2018.

| Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type | SO LA CO RV | PROP 98 | FC | (Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year) | | | Fund Code |
|--|----------------------|---------------------|----|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | | | 2012-2013 FC | 2013-2014 FC | 2014-2015 FC | |
| 5225/Corr & Rehab | SO | No | | ----- | See Fiscal Summary | ----- | 0001 |
| 5225/Corr & Rehab | SO | No | | ----- | See Fiscal Summary | ----- | 0917 |
| <u>Fund Code</u> | | <u>Title</u> | | | | | |
| 0001 | | General Fund | | | | | |
| 0917 | | Inmate Welfare Fund | | | | | |