

FISCAL NOTE
SENATE, No. 778
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
214th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 9, 2010

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Requires annual review of all released sex offenders to determine if they were registered and tiered.

Type of Impact: Expenditure Increase. General Fund.

Agencies Affected: Department of Law and Public Safety; Department of Corrections; County Prosecutors.

Executive Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>
State Cost	\$65,820	\$41,594	\$42,392

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) **concurs** with the Executive estimate, provided that the required functions, asserted by the Department of Law and Public Safety (DLPS), cannot be performed with data processing systems currently in use.
- Requires the Department of Law and Public Safety to conduct an annual review of sex offenders who are released from the Department of Corrections (DOC) (incarcerated and involuntarily committed) to determine if they were tiered and registered as sex offenders in New Jersey.

BILL DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill No. 778 of 2010 requires the Attorney General, on or before March 30th of each year, to conduct a review of all persons who were released from incarceration or involuntary commitment in the previous calendar year and who were required to register as a sex offender. The review is to determine whether such persons actually did register and whether they were tiered by the county prosecutors.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

The Department of Law and Public Safety estimates that this bill would require an initial and ongoing expenditure, as reportedly the Department of Corrections computer systems are not compatible with those at DLPS.

In the first year, DLPS would require a new computer program for the collection and review of materials related to sex offenders in order to implement this legislation. The DLPS estimated that the program could be developed in four to six weeks at a cost of \$65,820, which includes the salaries and benefits for a database developer (\$30,000), a reports developer (\$10,000), and a part-time technical assistant (\$25,820).

DLPS indicated that it would experience annual personnel and maintenance expenditures in the years following implementation. The department anticipated a cost of \$41,594 in year two and \$42,392 in year three and thereafter with an estimated increase of three percent annually in personnel costs.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS **concurs** with the Executive estimate, provided that the required functions, asserted by the Department of Law and Public Safety, cannot be performed with data processing systems currently in use.

The OLS understands that the process would be as follows: DLPS would request a compilation from each of the 21 county prosecutors of all sex offenders residing in that county who have been tiered and registered in the previous year. DLPS would then match those sex offenders against the DOC compilation of inmates who have been released in the previous year to ensure that all sex offenders were tiered and registered.

To complete this task, DLPS would require a database compatible with the DOC program. Additionally, the program would require ongoing maintenance.

As noted, this proposed legislation would required a review of all sex offenders who had been released in the previous year. The OLS does not know the total number of sex offenders DLPS would be required to review annually under this bill. Currently, the registration information of 3,178 sex offenders is published on the Internet by the State. However, not all convicted sex offenders are included in the online registry. Of the three tiers of offenders, only the registration information of tier 3, high risk offenders, and certain tier 2 offenders are published on the Internet registry.

Section: Law and Public Safety Section

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This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).