

ACCESS TO CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Senate Bill 522 As Reported by House Appropriations Committee

Sponsor: Senator Caswell

Analysis Completed: September 14, 2011

SUMMARY OF THE BILL:

Senate Bill 522 would amend the Criminal Justice Information Systems Policy Council Act to require the Department of State Police (DSP) to guarantee access by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to criminal justice information system information. In particular, access would be granted to information which is necessary for implementation of a new section of the Social Welfare Act, 1939 PA 280, which is being proposed in House Bill 4721. Senate Bill 522 is tie-barred to House Bill 4721.

The new section of the Social Welfare Act, section 10c, would require implementation of an automated program that would compare DHS lists of public assistance recipients and other individuals receiving assistance with DSP lists of persons subject to outstanding felony or extradition warrants. Also, section 10c would require implementation of an automated program that would grant DSP access to address information of public assistance applicants or recipients who have unsatisfied felony or extradition warrants.

Current law prohibits DHS from granting public assistance to individuals who are subject to outstanding felony or extradition warrants. Also, current law requires DHS to provide law enforcement with addresses of recipients that are subject to outstanding felony or extradition warrants.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 522, tie-barred to House Bill 4721, would automate the current information sharing process between public assistance programs within DHS and law enforcement. Costs to DSP for guaranteeing access to criminal justice information system information are anticipated to be minimal. According to DSP, minor programming changes to the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN) system will be needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this bill. More substantial changes will be necessary to DHS's Bridges public assistance eligibility system in order for Bridges to interface with LEIN. An appropriation of \$300,000 was included in the FY 2011 DHS budget for costs associated with these changes. In turn, House Bill 4721 will generate an indeterminate amount of savings to the state as a result of persons being identified as having outstanding felony or extradition warrants and being removed from the public assistance caseload.

Fiscal Analysts: Robin R. Risko
Kevin Koorstra

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