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FISCAL NOTE (Form 1)  
(Office of Fiscal Analysis)  
Analyst: AC 4/15/92  
tc  
Version:

BILL NUMBER: SHB 5845  
FILE NUMBER:  
AMENDMENTS:

TITLE: "AN ACT CONCERNING SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENSES"

FAVORABLY REPORTED BY Judiciary

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/92

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER SHB 5845

STATE IMPACT	Potential Cost, Potential Minimal Cost, Can be Absorbed, see explanation below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	None
STATE AGENCY(S)	Judicial Department, Department of Children and Youth Services

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE IMPACT: Passage of this bill would result in a potential cost to the Department of Children and Youth Services (DCYS). The bill expands the definition of serious juvenile offenses (SJOs) to include the sale of a firearm and crimes committed by minors possessing firearms.

To the extent that passage of the bill results in the commitment of increased numbers of adjudicated youth to the custody of the DCYS, a potential cost may ensue. Currently, the population of the State's juvenile correctional facility, Long Lane School, significantly exceeds its rated bed capacity. It is anticipated that this overcrowding will continue into the foreseeable future. Due to this, any additional commitments will likely result in more rapid release of youth into the community or pressure to expand Long Lane School's capacity, which would result in the need for additional funds.

Passage of the bill could result in a potential minimal cost to the Judicial Department which can be absorbed within normal budgetary resources. Currently, juveniles under age 16 deemed a threat to themselves or the community can be detained by the court at one of three detention facilities in the State. Individuals who have committed SJOs can only be released from such facilities at the decision of the court, rather than the decision of the detention facility, as is the case with less dangerous offenses. To the extent that the court would have to conduct a greater number of hearings, minimal costs associated with case processing would be incurred but are anticipated to be absorbable.

Since these facilities are operating at or above capacity, no additional costs for detention would be incurred since reshuffling of existing detainees would take place.