3170

FISCAL NOTE(Form 1)
(Office of Fiscal Analysis)
Analyst: Cg 6/29/92
las
Version: 7

BILL NUMBER: HB 6004
FILE NUMBER:
AMENDMENTS: House "A"

Passed

TITLE: "AN ACT CONCERNING SERIOUS JUVENILE OFFENSES"

FAVORABLY REPORTED BY Emergency Certification

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/1/92

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER HB 6004

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: The bill as amended expands the definition of serious juvenile offenses (SJOs) to include various crimes committed by minors possessing firearms.

Passage of the bill as amended may result in an increase in the average length of stay of adjudicated youth placed at the State's juvenile correctional facility, Long Lane School. During SFY 1991-92, the population of Long Lane School has averaged between 195-200. This exceeds its rated bed capacity of 172 (36 maximum security, 20 medium security, and 116 cottage beds). It is anticipated that this overcrowding will continue into the foreseeable future. Due to this, any increase in the average length of stay may 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 as amended 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.

House "A" strikes the section of the original bill which prohibits anyone under age 16 from selling a firearm for economic gain or using, threatening to use, displaying or representing that he possesses a firearm during the commission of an illegal drug sale. Violation of this prohibition was to be a serious juvenile offense. This results in the elimination of the potential cost and minimal cost associated with this section.

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