

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0864-01  
Bill No.: SB 255  
Subject: Crimes and Punishment; Law Enforcement Officers and Agencies  
Type: Original  
Date: January 29, 2001

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON STATE FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
None			
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
None			
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: ( ) indicate costs or losses.  
This fiscal note contains 3 pages.

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**FISCAL ANALYSIS**

**ASSUMPTION**

Officials from the **Office of the State Courts Administrator (CTS)** state the proposed legislation would expand the definition of the crime of harassment to include "by computer electronic mail". CTS anticipates some increase in the number of cases filed, however, would not expect a significant impact on the workload of the judiciary.

Officials from the **Office of the State Public Defender** assumes that existing staff could provide representation for those 10-15 cases arising where indigent persons were charged with the new crimes of sending unsolicited e-mails after a request to stop. However, passage of more than one similar bill would require the State Public Defender System to request increased appropriations to cover cumulative cost of representing the indigent accused in the additional cases.

Officials from the **Department of Public Safety - Director's Office** and the **Office of Prosecution Services** assume this proposal would not fiscally impact their agencies.

In response to similar legislation from a previous session, officials from the **Department of Corrections** and the **Office of the Attorney General** each assumed the proposed legislation would have no fiscal impact on their respective agencies.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - State Government</u>	FY 2002 (10 Mo.)	FY 2003	FY 2004
	\$0	\$0	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT - Local Government</u>	FY 2002 (10 Mo.)	FY 2003	FY 2004
	\$0	\$0	\$0

**FISCAL IMPACT - Small Business**

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

**DESCRIPTION**

RAS:LR:OD (12/00)

This proposal adds computer electronic mail messages as a method by which a person may commit the crime of harassment.

This proposal also prohibits the use of electronic mail to send obscene or indecent commercial messages.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

#### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Office of Prosecution Services  
Office of the State Courts Administrator  
Office of the State Public Defender  
Department of Corrections  
Office of the Attorney General  
Department of Public Safety



Jeanne Jarrett, CPA  
Director  
January 29, 2001