

CD reports HB661 could have a positive impact upon the safety aspects of the department's prison program by reducing the number of deaths and serious injuries or reducing the degree of serious injury. However, it will not entirely eliminate the problem because most inmate attacks are done with make-shift knives or "shanks" and inmates who are intent upon killing or injuring an officer will simply stab an officer in another part of the body such as the head or neck. The number of serious attacks upon correctional officers ranges from about zero (0) to five (5) each year.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation in the bill to cover the cost to CD for purchasing the vests. CD estimates this could cost from \$705,000 to \$1,057,000 in FY 02 based on \$600 - \$900 vest for approximately 1,175 officers (including officers, sergeants, lieutenants and captains). In addition, the vest cannot be shared due to sanitary issues. Each officer must be issued his or her own vest. These costs should be somewhat less in the following years.

CD reports if HB661 reduced deaths or serious injuries, it could in the long-term slightly reduce the department's worker's compensation premiums.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB661 will slightly increase the administrative burden on CD's procurement personnel to order the vests, and on prison supervisory staff to assign the vests.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

CYFD reports HB661 focuses on adult correctional officers only and makes no reference to juvenile correctional officers.

LAT/njw:ar