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According to all agencies responding to this analysis, an increase in penalties will result in a fiscal impact on the entire criminal justice system.

It will cost the judicial information system \$400 for statewide update, distribution and documentation of statutory changes. Any additional fiscal impact on the judiciary would be proportional to the enforcement of this law and commenced prosecutions. New laws, amendments to existing laws, and new hearings have the potential to increase caseloads in the courts, thus requiring additional resources to handle the increase.

Whenever penalties are stiffened, trials become concurrently more complex and difficult. The stakes are higher and defendants are less likely to plead. Even though the penalties are only 'stepped up' one notch, the change will affect both the public defender and district attorney's office in terms of manpower hours and costs if, because of the harsher penalties, only a handful of clients opt for a jury trial instead of a plea.

And lastly, increased penalties would presumably raise costs for the Corrections Department due to longer sentences.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. By increasing the penalties, will it help to deter battery on a police officer?

CMH/ar