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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/21/08

SPONSOR Gardner LAST UPDATED _____ HB 178

SHORT TITLE 9th District Community Prosecutions Program SB _____

ANALYST Ortiz

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Administrative Office of the District Attorneys (AODA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 178 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to Ninth District Attorney for the purpose of implementing and maintaining community prosecution programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

“Community prosecution” is a term used across the country to describe responsibilities that the DA’s office is taking on outside of the courtroom. Community Prosecution involves a long-term, proactive partnership among the prosecutor’s office, law enforcement, the community and public and private organizations, whereby the authority of the prosecutor’s office is used to prevent crime, solve problems, improve public safety, educate the public and enhance the quality of life of community members. Community prosecution can address all types of crime; from quality of life crimes to serious crimes. Over half of the prosecutor offices in the country are

involved in community prosecution. According to the US Department of Justice, community prosecution techniques are becoming “business as usual.”

The 9th Judicial District Attorney’s office is involved in numerous community prosecution programs, including but not limited to, MethWatch, Newman Project (a project to protect seniors), Abolish Chronic Truancy, drug court, Pre-pros programs, Youth Resource Team of Curry County, Teen Court, Law Enforcement Explorers, gun safety, graffiti clean-up programs, Host program (reading to students), Hartley House board and programs (protect battered women), Rescue 911 (providing cell phones to contact the police), serving on various civic boards and committees, and Shoplift a Cop (Christmas gifts for children).

We are also looking into other potential programs including, but not limited to, vehicle/home/asset seizure programs, domestic violence court, re-entry programs, junior district attorney programs, crime prevention through environmental design, nuisance abatement (motel rental agreement / apartment rental agreement), positive youth activity development / park development, scrap metal theft prevention programs, and gang intervention programs.

In the Abolish Chronic Truancy program alone, the DA’s office gave presentations last semester on the importance of staying in school in more than 20 schools in our community. The DA’s office has produced informational pamphlets, videos, posters and has been involved in radio advertisement related to the importance of school. The goal is to reduce chronic truancy by educating students about school and about the problems that a student will face if he/she does not complete school. This in turn will reduce the number of delinquent offenses in our community. The DA’s office is interested in helping schools provide incentives for student’s attendance. Through community donations, the DA’s office is giving away prizes to students who have perfect attendance.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The bill would significantly assist the DA’s office in the implementation and maintenance of the above discussed programs.

EO/mt