



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 2/25/2019

Agenda Placement: 7B

Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Legislative Subcommittee
FROM: Mary Booher for Minh Tran - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Molly Rattigan, Deputy County Executive Officer - 253-4112
SUBJECT: SB 284-Keep Youth Closer to Home

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer requests discussion and possible action on SB 284 (Beall), a bill that would increase the annual rate from \$24,000 to \$125,000 for certain youth committed to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Division of Juvenile Justice, beginning January 1, 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SB 284 increases the cost of county confinement to DJJ from \$24,000 to 125,000 for youth who meet one of the following criteria:

1. Committed for an offense that occurred when under 16 years of age, or
2. Committed for an offense that would carry a sentence of fewer than 7 years in criminal court had they been tried as an adult.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The annual cost to the state to confine youth at the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) averages more than \$300,000 per person, counties are charged \$24,000 annually per youth. SB 1021 in 2012 established the \$24,000 flat fee. The author of the bill states that youth sent to DJJ do not receive adequate educational services, vocation programs, or mental health treatment. The author of the bill also states that nearly every county in California has its own secure, probation-run facility for youth, yet they operate at just 30 percent of capacity. Finally, the author contends that increasing the cost to counties to send youth to the DJJ, will reduce reliance on the system and keep youth closer to home.

Specifically, SB 284 increases the cost of county confinement to DJJ from \$24,000 to 125,000 for youth who meet one of the following criteria:

1. Committed for an offense that occurred when under 16 years of age, or
2. Committed for an offense that would carry a sentence of fewer than 7 years in criminal court had they been tried as an adult.

Napa County has only had one youth sent to DJJ in the past 10 years and even at \$24,000 a year, it is cost prohibitive. Prior to sending the youth to DJJ, Napa County staff tried to intervene and manage at a local level. However, due to the criminal charges and the number of years sentenced, it was not possible to manage the case locally. While Napa County Probation has worked diligently over the years to implement an evidence-based system for youth offenders and agrees in concept that youth are often better managed closer to home, there are times when a higher level of sanction and security are necessary to address a specific youth and to prevent that youth from having an impact on other juvenile offenders remaining locally. Recently, a report has come out highlighting the issues at DJJ facilities and the level of safety provided and the effectiveness of treatment programs.

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is convening a Juvenile Hall/Juvenile Justice workgroup that Napa County Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza will chair. CSAC has also reached out to counties to understand the impact SB 284 may have. Napa County staff recommends an oppose position and to participate in conversations to redirect the focus of the issue to be about the quality of services and structure of the DJJ program based on an evidence-based model, rather than simply raising the cost for a status quo service.

California State Association of Counties: Pending
Rural County Representatives of California: Pending

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . SB 284
- B . SB 284 Fact Sheet

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan