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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Arnold-Jones DATE TYPED _____ HB 660

SHORT TITLE Electronic Lobbyist Registration SB _____

ANALYST Fernandez

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI	NFI

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Secretary of State (SOS)
 Corrections Department (CD)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 660 allows for electronic authentication of a lobbyist or lobbyist's employer's signature when filing expenditure reports.

Significant Issues

Current statute allows for the electronic filing of lobbyist expenditure reports; however, an independent affidavit must be submitted to the Secretary of State within 48 hours after the expenditure report is electronically filed. This bill would allow the lobbyist or lobbyist's employer to use an electronic signature as prescribed by the Secretary of State pursuant to the Electronic Authentication of Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act at the same time the electronic report is filed.

A report that is electronically authenticated shall be deemed to have been subscribed and sworn to by the lobbyist or the lobbyist's employer.

According to the Secretary of State, security features will ensure that lobbyist reports are authentic and secure. Lobbyists will be issued a user name and password. Transmission of reports to the Secretary of State will be encrypted using SSL technology. System security features will allow the Secretary of State's Office to establish a verifiable link between the originator of the

document, the document, and the electronic signature, thereby fulfilling the requirements of the Electronic Authentication of Documents Act and the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

According to the Corrections Department, the agency does not have the capability to transmit electronic signatures and would have to purchase the appropriate software and possibly make modifications to its e-mail system. Implementing the changes could result in additional costs to the agency.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Secretary of State indicates there will be less paperwork to track, file and scan resulting in increased staff efficiency.

CTF/rs:yr