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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/21/13

SPONSOR Easley LAST UPDATED _____ HB 578

SHORT TITLE Ban Firearms in State Capitol SB _____

ANALYST Chenier

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY13	FY14	FY15	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 578 (HB 578) would ban an individual from carrying a firearm in buildings that comprise the state capitol under the Weapons and Explosives Act. HB 578 excludes from the ban law enforcement officers, security personnel, active military personnel, the Governor and the Lieutenant Governor. Amends the Concealed Handgun Carry Act to reflect these changes and provides definitions. Violation of this section would be a petty misdemeanor.

Also, the Director of the Legislative Council Service (LCS) or the director's designee may give permission to a person for the carrying of a firearm for display purposes if the firearm is unloaded and it has a trigger lock that is engaged. The bill requires the LCS to conspicuously post notices that it is unlawful to carry a firearm in the state capitol.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The DPS stated that if the LCS enforces the bill using security checkpoints the fiscal impact would be significant to the agency assigned the task of purchasing the necessary equipment and manning checkpoints. The cost of the start-up equipment required to have effective security checkpoints at all public entrances is estimated at \$400 - \$500 thousand per entrance. These checkpoints would require full time security personnel to man the checkpoints. Additionally,

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with large amounts of people coming to the capital when particular issues are being heard, considerable back-ups at the security checkpoints would become necessary.

If the LCS determined that enforcement in the form of security checkpoints was unnecessary the cost to the Legislature would be minimal requiring notices to be posted in the state capitol stating that it is unlawful to carry a firearm in the state capitol.

EC/svb