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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Wirth ORIGINAL DATE 2/5/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Prohibit Firearms in the Senate SB SR 1

ANALYST Sánchez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY15	FY16	FY17	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		\$183.5	\$189.0	\$375.5	Recurring	General Fund
		\$49.8		\$49.8	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 1

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Resolution 1 proposes to ban the carrying of firearms in the senate chamber, gallery, lounge, hallways or committee rooms by all persons except law enforcement officers.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

If security checkpoints become a reality, the fiscal impact would be very significant to the entity (presumably the Legislative Council Service) assigned the task of purchasing the necessary equipment and manning those checkpoints. The fiscal impact of the equipment required to have effective security checkpoints at all public entrances would be significant. The exact cost of implementing this is unknown but it could easily reach into the tens of thousands of dollars. In addition, these checkpoints would require full time security personnel to operate the checkpoints.

An additional consideration should be that, with the “come and go” nature of the business of the legislature while it is in session, and with massive amounts of people showing up when particular issues are being heard, considerable waits at the security checkpoints would become the norm.

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Walkthrough metal-weapon detectors cost approximately \$3,900 each plus annual maintenance. The capitol building would probably require at least 12 units to cover the two main entrances and the garage entrance since the building can be accessed through the annex walkway, total equipment cost \$49.8 thousand. The units must be monitored by a security guards of which the building would require at least six per shift at an average salary of \$16.38 per hour. If the intent is to only have the devices and security staff during the legislative session the cost for staff is approximately \$70.6 thousand (salaries and benefits). Should the desire be to have the system operational year round then the cost staff time for the remainder of the year would be approximately \$112.9 thousand (salary and benefits). Total for salaries and benefits \$183.5 thousand.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to DPS the most significant issue of this bill is enforceability. Likely the only reasonable way to achieve meaningful enforceability would be through the use of security checkpoints at each door of the roundhouse. Having security checkpoints will have a significant fiscal impact on the Legislative Council Service. On the other hand, not having security checkpoints would make this proposed statute very difficult to enforce. The resolution only affects the Senate and the task of separating for disparate treatment those areas that are considered "shared" areas with the House of Representatives would be virtually impossible.

DPS also states that in the absence of security checkpoints, the law would be mostly unenforceable, except with respect to the few individuals who would seek to enter the capitol building while carrying their firearm out in the open. If a person is carrying a concealed firearm (whether they have a permit or not) and his/her concealment is effective, no one would be able to tell that the person is carrying a firearm and is in violation of this resolution.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

This resolution provides no proposed punishment.

ABS/je/bb