

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6477

BILL NUMBER: SB 85

DATE PREPARED: Mar 4, 1999

BILL AMENDED: Feb 25, 1999

SUBJECT: County jail inmate medical costs.

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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill provides that the medical care expenses of a person committed to a county jail by another county are the responsibility of the committing county.

Effective Date: (Amended) Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: (Revised) There are approximately 1,400 DOC offenders housed in county jails currently. Jails are paid \$35 per diem for offender housing costs, and are reimbursed for acute medical costs (e.g., emergency room visits). County jails currently notify DOC concerning offenders with potentially chronic medical conditions, and DOC arranges intake of these offenders for treatment under its less expensive health care service.

Under this bill, counties may provide some medical services prior to consultation with DOC, potentially raising DOC's total medical reimbursements to counties. DOC reimbursed counties a total of \$591,025 in FY 1998 for medical services.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: (Revised) Counties transferring prisoners to other counties currently pay the cost of incarceration to the receiving county. Although individual per diem costs vary across the state, the statewide average is \$44. This provision may raise that costs somewhat for referring counties.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: County jails.

Information Sources: Diane Mains (232-5967), Planning Division, Department of Correction; Indiana Sheriffs Association.