

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

301 State House
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6314
BILL NUMBER: SB 96

DATE PREPARED: Nov 13, 1998
BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Credit time for inmates.

FISCAL ANALYST: Mark Bucherl
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FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill allows a person confined by the Department of Correction to earn additional credit time for the completion of a vocational education program or substance abuse program approved by the Department. It also repeals a provision that allows a trial court to reduce the sentence of an offender who completes a vocational education program, a substance abuse program, or another educational program other than one leading to a GED, a high school degree, an associate's degree, or a bachelor's degree.

Effective Date: July 1, 1999.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Passage of this bill could reduce incarceration costs for the Department of Correction if additional offenders enroll in education and substance abuse programs and fulfill sentence reduction requirements.

Passage of this bill should require no additional teaching or counseling staff. (Educational credit time legislation, established in FY 94, has created no apparent increase in prisoners enrolling in educational programs.) In FY 98, 1,509 offenders in DOC facilities completed applicable education programs, including 125 associate and bachelors degrees, 758 GEDs and 107 high school diplomas. It is estimated that approximately 4,000 (60%) of offenders admitted to substance abuse programming in CY 97 successfully completed these programs.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill removes the requirement that courts make written responses to petitions for reduction of sentence. This may reduce the administrative work undertaken in response processing and the subsequent hearings which might have been granted.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts.

Information Sources: Planning Division, Department of Correction.