

Date of Hearing: June 2, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 2483 (Bauer-Kahan) – As Amended May 11, 2020

Policy Committee: Public Safety

Vote: 8 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill requires, on or before January 1, 2023, the sheriff in each county to compile and submit data to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) on the county's anti-recidivism programs and success rates in reducing recidivism. Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires the BSCC to compile a report based on findings from counties and submit a report to the Legislature by July 1, 2023.
- 2) Requires this bill to sunset on January 1, 2027.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Costs (GF), possibly between \$300,000 and \$500,000, for all 58 county sheriffs' departments in increased workload and infrastructure to track and compile data on the success rates of existing recidivism programs.
- 2) Possible costs (GF) between \$100,000 and \$200,000 in additional workload for BSCC to compile data from counties on anti-recidivism programs and report to the Legislature.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Counties have an outsized role in the criminal justice system, and understanding their rehabilitation programming, especially after realignment, should be a priority. This data will allow both state legislators and local government officials to craft better policy by creating a way to gauge what recidivism reduction programs are working.

- 2) **Data Reporting.** This bill requires sheriffs to compile data on the success rates of anti-recidivism programs. This means county sheriffs' departments will have to track when someone who participated in an anti-recidivism program re-offends. It is unclear whether counties have sufficient infrastructure to flag a defendant convicted for a new crime as a former participant in an anti-recidivism program. Additionally, defendants may be arrested and convicted in another county. Butte County, for example, may not know whether a defendant is convicted of a new crime in Amador County after completing a Butte County anti-recidivism program. This disparity may affect the perceived success or failure of a county's anti-recidivism program.

Finally, the BSCC is slated to lose, several GF grant allocations for programs aimed at assisting formerly incarcerated people. Specifically, the Governor proposes to eliminate \$37 million in grant funding for adult offender re-entry programs. As a result, BSCC will likely require additional funding to compile data received from sheriffs' departments on anti-recidivism programs and report that data to the Legislature.

3) **Arguments in Support.** According to the Pacific Juvenile Defender Center:

[AB 2483] supports the goals of realignment and hold officials accountable for the success of their programs. As the BSCC regulates many of the standards regarding juvenile incarceration, the youth will benefit from the reporting requirement.

4) **Arguments in Opposition.** According to the California State Sheriffs Association:

The scope of what is sought by this language is unclear and is likely to yield disparate responses from the field. ... Sheriffs and CSSA see the virtue in providing programming and reducing recidivism. Unfortunately, due to the bill's ambiguous language and lack of funding, CSSA must respectfully oppose AB 2483.

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