
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

SB 670 (Caballero) - Form preparers: immigration

Version: April 29, 2021

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: May 20, 2021

Policy Vote: JUD. 7 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Shaun Naidu

Bill Summary: SB 670 would make a number of changes related to the scope and practice of immigration consultants, including changing the name to form preparers.

***** ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on May 20, 2021

Fiscal Impact:

- Secretary of State (SOS): The office reports first-year costs of \$513,000 and ongoing annual costs of \$493,000 for 2.0 Associate Governmental Program Analysts, 1.0 Office Technician, and 1.0 Attorney I related to an expanded filing review and new enforcement functions. With respect to information technology (IT) and project management, unknown costs but likely in the millions of dollars. (Special fund*)
- State Prison: Unknown, potential increase in state costs for new commitments to state prison that otherwise would not have resulted in criminal conduct absent this measure. The proposed FY 2020-2021 per capita cost to detain a person in a state prison is \$112,691 annually, with an annual marginal rate per person of over \$13,000. The contract bed rate averages to about \$35,000 annually. The actual costs would depend on how many defendants are sentenced to prison. (General Fund)
- Courts: Unknown, potentially-significant workload cost pressures to the courts to adjudicate civil complaints and criminal charges brought against defendants who allegedly engage in the business of being a former preparer unlawfully or engage in the unauthorized practice of law. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to provide for additional staff and resources. For example, the Governor's proposed 2021-2022 budget would appropriate \$118.3 million from the General Fund to backfill continued reduction in fine and fee revenue for trial court operations. (General Fund**)

*Business Fees Fund

**Trial Court Trust Fund

Committee Amendments: Realign the felony punishment & delay the filing requirement to July 1, 2023.

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