FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6352
BILL NUMBER: HB 1189
NOTE PREPARED: Feb 20, 2017
BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Crime Reporting Requirements.
FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Ober
FIRST SPONSOR: Sen. Ruckelshaus
BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
X DEDICATED
FEDERAL
IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: The bill requires local law enforcement agencies to provide criminal justice data to the Indiana State Police (ISP). The bill requires local law enforcement agencies to participate in a statewide uniform crime report program with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The bill requires the Criminal Justice Data Division of the ISP to report crime statistics to the Governor semiannually (rather than annually, as required under current law).

Effective Date: (Amended) July 1, 2018.

Explanation of State Expenditures: Summary- State public agencies involved in criminal or delinquent matters are required to report all data requested by the Criminal Justice Data Division. However, agencies wishing to retain their current records management system would have to have their system upgraded to reorganize their reporting based on NIBRS. The additional expenditures necessary to accomplish this upgrade is currently indeterminable.

However, the costs could be mitigated by ISP assistance. The ISP reports that there is now a statewide repository with a web-based online NIBRS form available to state agencies at no cost, which would make these agencies NIBRS-compliant immediately. The ISP would work to secure grant funding for agencies wishing to upgrade their current records management system to NIBRS standards instead of going with the web-based form.

Excise Police- The State Excise Police currently submits crime data via the Uniform Criminal Reports (UCR) system, and would therefore require upgrading. The Excise Police had not as of December 2016 developed a cost estimate to convert to NIBRS. However, the agency identified three cost points that would occur to
convert to NIBRS.

(1) One-time cost to develop a new data gathering report for the additional information needed for NIBRS;
(2) Excise Police officers would have to input additional data manually; and
(3) If additional fields are necessary for data collection, the agency could have additional expenditures for upgrades or changes to the reporting system, which is a cost that would be paid to the Excise Police’s records management system vendor.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** *Summary*- Local public agencies involved in criminal or delinquent matters already are required to report all data requested by the Division. Local agencies wishing to retain their existing records system would need upgrades from their vendor to become a NIBRS-compliant system. The impact to local agencies to readjust resources to accomplish this provision is indeterminable. There are no known local law enforcement agencies in Indiana yet using NIBRS.

As described above, the ISP is proposing the use of an online NIBRS reporting form. The ISP reports the cost of the software for online form is free to local law enforcement. However, local police agencies may have to adjust their existing record system’s computer hardware in order to accommodate the software, which could require additional expenditures.

**Additional Information**-

*Kentucky State Police*- The Kentucky State Police, which currently operates a fully integrated NIBRS, reported that the web-based system that is currently used is offered free to local police and sheriff departments. There were costs, however, to local Kentucky law enforcement departments for IT system upgrades needed to run the web-based system. Cities like Louisville paid for customized features not offered in the standard “free” software. Kentucky initiated their NIBRS upgrade in 1999. The estimated cost overall to implement NIBRS was approximately $1 M.

*Fort Wayne Police Department*- The Fort Wayne Police Department (FWPD) intends to begin planning in January 2017 for a 36-month conversion to NIBRS from the current Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. The FWPD currently uses Spillman Technologies’ system for records management, and has indicated that several other Indiana local police agencies also currently use this record management system vendor. The FWPD’s vendor believes that their current records management system is not compatible with the web-based reporting tools for NIBRS.

*Former Federal Grants*- Federal grant funding, which has now been exhausted, was available in past years to help fund police departments’ conversion to NIBRS. Individual federal grants awarded to police departments in 26 states ranged from $57,300 to $1 M.

*Various Implementation Cost Information*- Research indicates that local police departments around the United States have encountered significant expense to convert to NIBRS. Larger city police departments have been particularly significant in their expenditures.
A Texas sheriff department estimated in 2009 that their computer dispatch system had to be upgraded to work with the new NIBRS system for $230,000. Additionally, “the sheriff’s office will have to spend $105,000 on NIBRS implementation and training” from their own budget. The sheriff department’s software upgrade costs were estimated at $456,000. The department was to receive about $0.9 M in grants to cover the software expenditures and other installations and upgrades.

A fiscal impact statement from a Texas legislative fiscal note (HB 11-2015) indicated that the expenditure impact of converting to NIBRS would vary by department. The fiscal impact statement reported that the El Paso Police Department’s conversion would have a minimal fiscal impact. However, the Houston Police Department “reported that conversion to the NIBRS would have a significant fiscal impact on the department, as it may require a significant rewrite of the current records management system.”

However, a National Consortium for Justice Information and Statistics report from 1997 states: “[e]stimating the cost of converting from UCR to NIBRS is particularly difficult. Most decision makers feel they have a firm grasp on the concept of cost, but unless they clearly identify cost associated with NIBRS, their estimates may be erroneous.” The report continues to suggest the future savings, such as timely and sufficient data access for investigations could counterbalance the up-front implementation costs.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Agencies dealing with crime or delinquency.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Agencies dealing with crime or delinquency.


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