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To: Members of the Iowa General Assembly

From: Holly M. Lyons, Fiscal Services Division Director

Subject: Correctional Impact Statements

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Pursuant to Iowa Code section 2.56, the Legislative Services Agency is required to determine the potential correctional impact of proposed legislation that creates a public offense, changes a current offense, or changes existing correctional procedures. The statements below provide cost estimates to the corrections system (State prison, probation, and parole), public defender's office, and the Judicial Branch. The cost estimates are provided by offense class for non-violent crimes.

These cost estimates do not include prosecution costs that may be county costs, State costs, or both. These cost estimates also do not include county jail operating costs due to a lack of data. This document is for background purposes only. Proposed legislation that impacts the criminal code will be analyzed as appropriate.

Methodology:

1. Judicial Branch salary costs are based on the FY 2013 budget. Average minutes per case for judges are based on a weighted case formula study conducted by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC) in Iowa in 2008. Average minutes per case for Clerk of Court staff are based on a work-time study conducted by the Judicial Branch in 2003.
2. Costs for indigent defense are based on Iowa Code sections 13B.4 and 815.7.
3. Marginal costs for correctional facilities are based on actual FY 2012 expenditures from all funding sources for the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Community-Based Corrections (CBC). Average daily populations were provided by the DOC from the Iowa Corrections Offender Network (ICON).
4. The FY 2012 average length of stay on probation or parole supervision was provided by the DOC using data from the ICON. Average costs for parole and probation supervision are based on actual FY 2012 expenditures from all funding sources.
5. The average length of stay in State prison by offense class was provided by the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning Division (CJJPD) of the Department of Human Rights.

Cost Estimates:

Simple Misdemeanor

The average State cost for one simple misdemeanor conviction ranges from $30 to $330. The minimum cost includes court time of a Magistrate or District Associate Judge, court reporter, court attendant, and Clerk of Court staff. The maximum cost includes court time and the costs of indigent defense.

Serious Misdemeanor
The average State cost for one serious misdemeanor conviction ranges from $210 to $7,200. The minimum cost includes court time of a District Associate Judge or a District Court Judge, court reporter, court attendant, and Clerk of Court staff. The maximum cost includes court time plus costs for indigent defense and State prison.

Aggravated Misdemeanor
The average State cost for one aggravated misdemeanor conviction ranges from $2,500 to $6,900. The minimum cost includes court time of a District Associate Judge or a District Court Judge, court reporter, court attendant, and Clerk of Court staff plus the costs of probation supervision. The maximum cost includes court time and the costs of a jury trial, indigent defense, State prison, and parole supervision.

Class D Felony
The average State cost for one Class D felony conviction ranges from $5,400 to $12,300. The minimum cost includes court time of a District Court Judge, court reporter, court attendant, and Clerk of Court staff plus the costs of indigent defense and probation supervision. The maximum cost includes court time and the costs of a jury trial, indigent defense, State prison, and parole supervision.

Class C Felony
The average State cost for one Class C felony conviction ranges from $6,500 to $19,100. The minimum cost includes court time of a District Court Judge, court reporter, court attendant, and Clerk of Court staff plus the costs of indigent defense and probation supervision. The maximum cost includes court time and the costs of a jury trial, indigent defense, State prison, and parole supervision.

Class B Felony
The average State cost for one Class B felony conviction ranges from $8,600 to $35,000. The minimum cost includes court time of a District Court Judge, court reporter, court attendant, and Clerk of Court staff plus the costs of indigent defense and probation supervision. The maximum cost includes court time and the costs of a jury trial, indigent defense, State prison, and parole supervision.

Cost estimates for serious and aggravated misdemeanors and all felony convictions will be incurred across multiple fiscal years while the offender is supervised in the correctional system, either in prison or the community.

Please contact Beth Lenstra at 281-6301 or Jennifer Acton at 281-7846 for further assistance.