Fiscal Analysis BOATING ACCIDENTS: FAILURE TO STOP



Bill/Sponsor SENATE BILL 658 with House committee amendment, Sen. Tony

Stamas

SENATE BILL 659 with House committee amendments, Sen. Tony

Stamas

House Committee Criminal Justice

Analysis Summary

The bills would establish felony penalties for failure to stop at the scene of a boating accident causing serious impairment or death. **Senate Bill 658** would amend the Marine Safety Act within the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to make the offense punishable by up to five years in prison, and fine of up to \$5,000, or both. **Senate Bill 659** would amend the Code of Criminal Procedure to establish sentencing guidelines consistent with SB 658.

Fiscal Impact

The bills would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the state and local units of government. Costs of incarceration in a county jail would fall to the county, and would vary from facility to facility. Felony probation supervision is the responsibility of the state; annual per-offender costs of parole/probation supervision were about \$1,982 in Fiscal Year 2002-03. On average, incarceration in a state prison costs roughly \$27,000 per prisoner per year, but varies widely according to security level. To the extent that SB 658 increased collections of penal fines, it could increase the amount of penal fine revenues going to local libraries, which are the constitutionally-dedicated recipients of those revenues.

Analyst(s)
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FLOOR ANALYSIS - 12/2/03