
Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

The bill modifies the duties of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The bill removes from the Office the duty of acting as a liaison between state agencies and organizations and instead requires the Office to assist local, state, and federal agencies in coordinating their activities to secure maximum use of funds and efforts that benefit people receiving charitable services from organizations. Additionally, the bill allows the Governor to appoint an executive director and other staff as necessary.

Currently, there is an executive director who oversees the Office and carries out the duties specified in the bill. The Executive Director does not plan to hire any additional staff as a result of the bill. In effect, these provisions codify existing practice.

Advisory Board

The bill changes the membership and duties of the Advisory Board of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. The most notable membership change on the Board is the addition of the Director of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, or the Director's designee, to the Board. There may be a minimal increase in costs to the Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities for the Director or other designated staff to attend board meetings and participate in other board activities.

The bill requires the Board to (1) assist in the dissemination of information about, and in the stimulation of public awareness of, the service programs supported by the Office, (2) review the budget and finances of the Office, proposed initiatives and policies, and the executive director's annual strategic plan at the Board's meetings, and (3) provide feedback for and proposed modifications of the executive director's strategic plan. There may be a minimal increase in administrative costs as a result of any activities undertaken by the Board to disseminate information about the programs supported by the Office.

Although the Board members are to serve without compensation, the bill specifies that the members appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House, and Senate President, who are representatives of the nonprofit, faith-based, and other nonprofit community, must be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in relation to board meetings. The Advisory Board expects to continue to meet quarterly. The costs associated with reimbursement of the faith-based and nonprofit community board members are expected to include only travel expenses and will likely be minimal.

For the current biennium, the Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives is funded through a \$312,500 earmark of GRF line item 600321, Support Services, in the Department of Job and Family Services. Any increase in costs to the Office in FY 2009 will affect expenditures from that line item. Which line item will be affected by future year expenditures will depend on how the Office is funded in subsequent years. LSC staff assumes that the Office will continue to be funded with GRF dollars.

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