



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

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*Director, Governmental Affairs*

August 9, 2019

Hon. Anthony J. Portantino, Chair  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 3086  
Sacramento, California 95814

Subject: AB 1331 (Bonta), as amended July 11, 2019—Fiscal Impact Statement

Dear Senator Portantino:

Beginning January 1, 2021, AB 1331 requires local and state law enforcement agencies and courts to report specified information to the Department of Justice (DOJ) on a weekly basis. We estimate that AB 1331 will have a fiscal impact of between \$12.3 million and \$22.2 million, although we note if amended to address our concerns, the bill's fiscal impact would be reduced to \$7.3 million.

### *Fiscal Impact*

This bill's primary workload impact comes from its requirement to report specified data electronically to the DOJ on a weekly basis. Courts currently report data on case dispositions to the DOJ on a monthly using a mix of electronic and paper-based reporting templates<sup>1</sup>. The bill's sponsors have indicated that they believe the bill requires courts to collect and report data when a case is filed and also at disposition. This creates a significant new workload for courts if they are required to report case information to the DOJ when a criminal case is filed. A survey of courts found that, on average, reporting the information required by this bill at case filing would add between 5 minutes and 15 minutes per case. Based on the statewide average number of criminal

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<sup>1</sup> As required by Government Code Section 13151.

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filings for the last 5 years, this would create a workload impact of between \$5.0 million and \$14.9 million<sup>2</sup>.

The council estimates it will cost approximately \$7.3 million to modify existing and acquire new case management systems to comply with this bill's electronic reporting requirements. Specifically, we note that there are 8 courts utilizing legacy case management systems that cannot be modified to electronically report data to the DOJ and would therefore need to be replaced. DOJ has indicated to the council that it will need to make substantial changes to its existing system to implement the bill. It is our understanding that DOJ will need to gain approval for the information technology project from the California Department of Technology, which can be a lengthy process. The work on court case management systems cannot begin until DOJ provides technical details on their system to the courts once they have designed the new system. The council estimates that it will take courts at least one-year for those changes to be made statewide. Thus, the council is concerned that the courts will be unable to meet the January 1, 2021 operative date and requests that the author work with the council and DOJ to identify an operative date that will accommodate the IT changes that must be implemented for the reporting to occur.

We note that, if the bill is amended to clarify that courts are only required to provide case data at disposition, the fiscal impact would be reduced to \$7.3 million, which would cover the costs of modifying existing or acquiring new case management systems to comply with its requirements.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Neuburger at (916) 323-3121 or [mark.neuburger@jud.ca.gov](mailto:mark.neuburger@jud.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Mailed August 9, 2019*

Cory T. Jaspersen  
Director, Governmental Affairs

CTJ/MN/jh

cc: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Hon. Rob Bonta, Member of the Assembly  
Mr. Shaun Naidu, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Mr. Matt Osterli, Consultant, Senate Republican Office of Policy  
Ms. Melissa Immel, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor  
Ms. Timothy Weber, Budget Analyst, Department of Finance  
Mr. Martin Hoshino, Administrative Director, Judicial Council of California

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<sup>2</sup>This calculation was determined by multiplying the 5-year average of felony and misdemeanor criminal case filings (990,000) by the workload cost range per case (\$5 to \$15). Data on criminal case filings was obtained from the 2018 Court Statistics Report.