PRISON/JAIL POPULATION COST ESTIMATE STATEMENT

NINETY-FIRST SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY 2016

SENATE BILL NO. 66

AN ACT TO PERMIT THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES TO PARENTS OF CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS

A prison or jail impact statement has been requested for Senate Bill 66 because the bill amends a current statute involving specialized handicapped license plates to allow for parents to apply for the plates if they have a substantially physically disabled child. Currently it is a Class 2 misdemeanor for failure to surrender the license plates when required, and a Class 1 misdemeanor to submit a false or fraudulent application.

There were two arrests and two convictions under §32-5-76 between January 1, 2010 and December 31, 2015, with one conviction serving 30 days, and the other serving five days in jail. There is an average of 2,364 special handicapped plates issued each year. There is a less than one tenth of one percent arrest and conviction rate for people issued special handicapped plates under this statute. While the change to the law will likely allow more people to apply to receive the special plates and therefore create more possible violations, it is the opinion of the Legislative Research Council that there is a very low rate of arrest and conviction under this statute, and therefore the prison or jail impact will be minimal.

Approved:/S/ Jason Hancock Date: 2/5/16

Director, Legislative Research Council