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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6066

BILL NUMBER: SB 262

NOTE PREPARED: Apr 18, 2011

BILL AMENDED: Apr 15, 2011

SUBJECT: Insanity Defense.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Steele

FIRST SPONSOR: Rep. Koch

BILL STATUS: As Passed House

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill permits a physician to examine a defendant who raises an incompetency claim. It also requires that a psychologist, psychiatrist, or physician appointed to examine a defendant have expertise in determining competency.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

Explanation of State Expenditures:

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: This bill applies to cases when defendants are being examined to determine whether they are competent to stand trial.

Courts report that they are experiencing trouble securing psychiatrists to evaluate criminal defendants who wish to plead insanity. As a result, criminal trials are delayed as courts must wait to be able to schedule a psychiatrist to examine the defendant. Consequently, criminal defendants are often detained in local jails until a psychiatrist is available. Depending on how often criminal defendants wish to plead not guilty for reason of insanity, this bill could reduce the waiting time to secure a psychiatrist or psychologist to evaluate a defendant. More timely evaluations and trials could help to reduce the jail population awaiting trial.

Generally, forensic psychologists are paid between \$200 and \$300 per hour, while psychiatrists charge between \$250 and \$400 per hour. There are 13 board-certified forensic psychiatrists and at least 13 psychologists who are endorsed by the Indiana State Board of Examiners in Psychology as Health Service

Providers and who practice in Indiana. Hourly fees for psychologists run between \$200 and \$300 while psychiatrists charge hourly fees of between \$250 and \$400. Psychologists may bill more hours to do an evaluation due to use of psychological testing.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected:

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts.

Information Sources: Thomas Felts, Allen Circuit Court; Steven Ross, PsyD, HSPP.; George Parker, MD

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