

One-Time Funding for Diversion and Reentry Programs

General Fund (In Millions)

Program	Senate	Assembly
General diversion and reentry programs	\$35	—
Targeted diversion programs for at-risk youth	—	\$75
Targeted diversion programs for Native American youth	—	10
Reentry programs that provide housing services	50	50
Social workers for youth in public defender's offices	15	15
Totals	\$100	\$150

- Diversion programs generally provide treatment to individuals in lieu of punishment (such as jail). Reentry programs provide services to individuals who are approaching release or have recently been released from jail or prison in order to help them transition to the community.
- Both houses approved one-time funding for diversion and reentry programs. Specifically, the Senate provides \$100 million to the Governor's Office of Emergency Services and the Assembly provides \$150 million to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Houses also differ in how funds are allocated among different programs, including the targeting of funds to specific populations.
- Both houses approved placeholder trailer bill language related to reentry and diversion. The Senate also approved trailer bill language regarding the sealing of records of certain offenders.

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LAO Comments

- The Legislature will want to consider the extent to which funding for diversion and reentry programs should be targeted to specific populations or specific types of services, as well as which state entity should administer the programs. We note that BSCC has administered grants for diversion and reentry programs in the past.
- At this time, it is unclear how the proposed funding for the different programs would be allocated. The Legislature will want to consider whether funds should be allocated on a competitive basis, as well as the specific criteria that should be considered in allocating the funds.
- While some specific types of diversion and reentry programs and services have been shown to be effective, many of them have not been evaluated. Accordingly, the Legislature could consider requiring that programs that receive funds be evaluated. This would help determine whether the programs are effective and help guide funding decisions for diversion and reentry programs.