

FISCAL NOTE

[First Reprint]

ASSEMBLY, No. 1849

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

208th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 24, 1998

Assembly Bill No. 1849 (1R) of 1998 requires the Department of Corrections to notify the county prosecutor whenever an inmate who is incarcerated for a violent crime is scheduled for a custody status review which might result in a reduced custody classification that would make the inmate eligible to leave the correctional facility to participate in any residential community release program. The prosecutor's office would notify the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy of the county in which the inmate was convicted and that office shall use any reasonable means available to it to give notice to the victim of the crime or the victim's nearest relative if the crime resulted in death.

The Department of Corrections states that although specific statistics are not available for the number of cases which would fall under this notification requirement, during calendar year 1997, approximately 3,000 inmates were referred for consideration for community release programs. The Community Release Administrator estimates that about 1,200 to 1,500 of the referrals were violent offenders. The department estimates that if this notification requirement were centralized, it would require one additional position at a salary and fringe benefits cost of \$33,000 and incur a non-salary cost of \$1,600 for furnishings and supplies, for a first-year cost of \$34,500.

The Office of Legislative Services concurs.

This fiscal note has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67.