

The bill states in part that “... the Department of Corrections shall amend its regulations to reduce the maximum temperature that may be maintained in all rooms in local correctional facilities from 85 degrees

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Fahrenheit to 77 degrees Fahrenheit.” DOC has made their cost estimates assuming that the bill’s language is changed to apply to “housing units” rather than “all rooms” and that “state correctional facilities” rather than “local correctional facilities” was the intent of the bill. If the intent of the legislation is only for DOC to modify its regulations for local jails, the fiscal impact for the agency is indeterminant.

DSS (for two of three types of facilities; see **Other** for third type), DJJ, and VDH all indicate either no fiscal impact or that any fiscal impacts that may arise are expected to be addressed with existing resources. DBHDS reports that the bill may have an impact, however the cost is indeterminate.

Other: The bill states in part that “the Department of Social Services shall amend its regulations to ... reduce the temperature at which fans or other cooling systems are required to be used in inside areas of licensed family day homes occupied by children from above 80 degrees Fahrenheit to 77 degrees Fahrenheit.” Because these family day homes are now licensed and regulated by the Department of Education (DOE), as written the bill would not address such family day homes unless the text refers to the Department of Education instead. If the bill is so amended, DOE reports the agency can address applicable costs with existing resources.

If the intent of this legislation is to ensure that state correctional facilities meet the proposed temperature requirements, consideration should be given to providing clarifying language.