

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 18, 2013**

**TO:** Honorable Abel Herrero, Chair, House Committee On Criminal Jurisprudence

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB1284** by Johnson (Relating to the offense of making or causing a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would amend the Penal Code as it relates to the offense of making or causing a false alarm or report involving a public or private institution of higher education. Under the provisions of the bill, the punishment for making or causing a false alarm or report would be enhanced from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony if the false alarm or report involves a public or private institution of higher education. The bill would take effect on September 1, 2013, and applies only to offenses committed on or after that date.

The bill increases the penalty for making or causing a false alarm or report. Increasing the penalty for any criminal offense is expected to increase demands on state and/or county correctional agency resources due to longer terms of community supervision, county jail confinement, state correctional institution confinement, and/or parole. However, in the case of the bill, it is assumed the number of offenders supervised or incarcerated under this statute would not significantly impact state correctional agencies' workload and programs.

**Local Government Impact**

The bill would elevate the offense from a Class A misdemeanor to a state jail felony if the false report concerns a public or private institution of higher education; as a result local governments may see slightly fewer Class A misdemeanors under the provisions of the bill. Savings to units of local government would vary by the number of applicable cases but are not anticipated to be significant.

**Source Agencies:**

**LBB Staff:** UP, ESi, GG, LM, KKR