

STATEWIDE COST ESTIMATE

Health and Safety Code Section 13235, Subdivision (a)
Statutes 1989, Chapter 993

Fire Safety Inspections of Care Facilities

01-TC-16

Test Claim Filed: June 30, 2002

Reimbursement Period for this Estimate: July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2008

Eligible Claimants: Any city, county, city and county, and any fire protection district or other district performing fire protection services at the local level, formed pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 13800 et seq., that is subject to the tax and spend limitations of articles XIII A and XIII B

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The statewide cost estimate includes eight fiscal years for a total of **\$631,411**. This averages to \$78,926 annually in costs for the state. Following is a breakdown of estimated total costs per fiscal year:

Fiscal Year	Number of Claims Filed with SCO	Estimated Cost
2000-2001	3	\$ 49,598
2001-2002	6	67,137
2002-2003	7	50,259
2003-2004	9	73,370
2004-2005	11	86,329
2005-2006	12	83,450
2006-2007	13	107,673
2007-2008	N/A	113,595
TOTAL	61	\$631,411

STAFF ANALYSIS

Summary of the Mandate

Health and Safety Code section 13235, subdivision (a), requires local fire departments to perform fire safety inspections of all community care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, and child daycare facilities. Upon receipt of a request from a prospective licensee, the local fire department, or State Fire Marshal, whichever has primary jurisdiction, is required to conduct a preinspection of the facility prior to the fire clearance approval. At the time of the preinspection, the applicable fire enforcing agency will provide consultation and interpretation of the fire safety regulations that are to be enforced in order to obtain the clearances necessary to obtain a license.

The Commission on State Mandates (Commission) adopted the Statement of Decision for the *Fire Safety Inspections of Care Facilities* test claim, finding that Health and Safety Code section 13235, subdivision (a), constitutes a new program or higher level of service and imposes a state-

mandated program upon local agencies within the meaning of article XIII B, section 6 of the California Constitution and Government Code section 17514.

The claimant filed the test claim on June 30, 2002. The Commission adopted a Statement of Decision on March 29, 2006, and the parameters and guidelines on March 28, 2008. Eligible claimants were required to file initial reimbursement claims with the State Controller's Office (SCO) by October 1, 2008, and late claims by October 1, 2009.

Reimbursable Activities

The Commission approved the following reimbursable activities relating to the preinspection of the facility:

1. the preinspection of community care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, and child day care facilities;
2. the consultation and interpretation of applicable fire safety regulations for the prospective facility licensee; and
3. written notice to the prospective facility licensee of the specific fire safety regulations which shall be enforced in order to obtain the final fire clearance approval.

Inspection activities relating to the final fire clearance approval are not reimbursable.

Statewide Cost Estimate

Staff reviewed the claims data submitted by 11 cities and four fire protection agencies, and compiled by the SCO. The actual claims data showed that 61 claims were filed between fiscal years 2000-2001 and 2006-2007 for a total of \$517,816.¹ Based on this data, staff made the following assumptions and used the following methodology to develop a statewide cost estimate for this program. The Commission will report the adopted statewide cost estimate to the Legislature along with staff's assumptions and methodology.

Assumptions

Staff made the following assumptions:

1. *The actual amount claimed may increase if late or amended claims are filed.*
Only 15 cities and fire protection agencies in California filed 61 reimbursement claims for this program. Thus, if reimbursement claims are filed by any of the remaining cities or fire protection agencies, the amount of reimbursement claims may exceed the statewide cost estimate. For this program, late claims for 2000-2001 through 2006-2007 may be filed until October 2009.
2. *The actual amount claimed for reimbursement may increase if the number of community care facilities, residential care facilities for the elderly, and child daycare facilities increases, and local fire departments are required to conduct preinspections of the facilities prior to the fire-clearance approval.*
3. *Non-claiming cities and fire protection agencies did not file claims because they did not incur more than \$1000 in increased costs for this program.*

A claimant representative reports that most cities and fire protection agencies will be unable to meet the \$1,000 minimum threshold for filing reimbursement claims for the following

¹ Claims data reported as of November 6, 2008.

reasons:

- a. the fee authority provided to claimants for this program (\$50 per facility for medium facilities, and \$100 for large facilities) is sufficient to cover the costs of the program for many agencies; and
 - b. some cities do not allow these type of facilities within their boundaries.
4. *The cities and fire protection agencies that have filed reimbursement claims will continue to incur costs over \$1,000 and will continue to file reimbursement claims.*
 5. *The total amount of reimbursement for this program may be lower than the statewide cost estimate, because the SCO may reduce any reimbursement claim for this program.*

If the SCO audits this program and deems any reimbursement claim to be excessive or unreasonable, it may be reduced.

Methodology

Fiscal Years 2000-2001 through 2006-2007

The proposed statewide cost estimate for fiscal years 2000-2001 through 2006-2007 is based on 61 unaudited actual reimbursement claims filed with the SCO for these years.

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Staff estimated fiscal year 2007-2008 costs by multiplying the 2006-2007 estimate by the implicit price deflator for 2007-2008 (5.5%), as forecast by Department of Finance.

The proposed statewide cost estimate includes eight fiscal years for a total of \$631,411. This averages to \$78,926 annually in costs for the state.

Conclusion

The Commission adopt the statewide cost estimate of **\$631,411** (\$78,926 in annual costs) for costs incurred in complying with the *Fire Safety Inspections of Care Facilities* program.