

Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 25, 1999

An act relating to sentencing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 873, as amended, Vasconcellos. Sentencing: prior convictions: joint study.

Existing law, known as the "3 strikes law" and codified in 2 initiative statutes, prescribes alternative prison sentencing for any person convicted of a felony who has one or more prior serious or violent felony convictions.

This bill would require the Legislative Analyst, ~~in cooperation with the Judicial Council, the Attorney General, and the University of California,~~ to undertake a joint study to examine the costs and benefits of the "3 strikes law" and to report its findings, as specified, to the Legislature by July 1, 2000. *The bill also would require the Judicial Council, the Attorney General, and the University of California to assist the Legislative Analyst in conducting the study.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislative Analyst, ~~in cooperation~~
2 ~~with the Judicial Council, the Attorney General, and the~~
3 ~~University of California (upon approval by the Board of~~

1 ~~Regents~~), shall examine the costs and benefits of the
2 “three strikes” law, and report its findings to the
3 Legislature on or before July 1, 2000. *The Judicial Council,*
4 *the Attorney General, and the University of California*
5 *(upon approval by the Board of Regents) shall assist the*
6 *Legislative Analyst in conducting the study.* The report
7 shall examine the extent to which reductions in serious
8 crime can be attributed to mandatory state incarceration
9 policies, and shall compare any ascertainable benefits
10 from crime prevention through incapacitation of various
11 types of offenders with the costs of incarcerating them.
12 The report shall also assess the degree to which the “three
13 strikes” law exacerbates selective law enforcement
14 problems, and the cost of corrective measures. *The study*
15 *shall also assess the manner in which the “three strikes”*
16 *law is implemented in representative urban, rural, and*
17 *mixed urban-rural counties in California.* The study shall
18 utilize existing resources of the participating agencies.

