

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 18, 1999

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 12, 1999

SENATE BILL

No. 873

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 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~~ *December 31*, 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 shall examine
2 the costs and benefits of the "three strikes" law, and

1 report its findings to the Legislature on or before ~~July 1~~
2 *December 31*, 2000. The Judicial Council, the Attorney
3 General, and the University of California (upon approval
4 by the Board of Regents) shall assist the Legislative
5 Analyst in conducting the study. The report shall examine
6 the extent to which reductions in serious crime can be
7 attributed to mandatory state incarceration policies, and
8 shall compare any ascertainable benefits from crime
9 prevention through incapacitation of various types of
10 offenders with the costs of incarcerating them. The
11 report shall also assess the degree to which the “three
12 strikes” law exacerbates selective law enforcement
13 problems, and the cost of corrective measures. The study
14 shall also assess the manner in which the “three strikes”
15 law is implemented in representative urban, rural, and
16 mixed urban-rural counties in California. The study shall
17 utilize existing resources of the participating agencies.

