

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 17, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 21, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 30, 2013

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 25, 2013

SENATE BILL

No. 16

Introduced by Senator Gaines

December 3, 2012

An act to add Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 15205) to Part 6 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code, relating to counties, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 16, as amended, Gaines. Administration of justice: county costs: nonhomicide criminal trials.

Existing law authorizes a county that is responsible for the cost of a trial or trials or any hearing of a person for the offense of homicide to apply to the Controller for reimbursement of the costs incurred by the county in excess of a specified amount subject to certain limitations. Existing law defines "costs incurred by the county" to mean, among other things, all costs, including the trial or trials of a person or persons for the offense of homicide, including costs incurred by the district attorney in investigation and prosecution, by the sheriff in investigation, by the public defender or court-appointed attorney or attorneys in investigation and defense, and all other costs incurred by the county in connection with bringing the person or persons to trial, including the trial itself. Existing law authorizes the Controller to establish rules and regulations to carry out these provisions.

This bill would, when the Attorney General is handling the investigation and prosecution of a nonhomicide crime in a county, as specified, authorize the county that is responsible for the defense costs of a trial or trials or any hearing of a person for the offense of a nonhomicide crime to apply to the Controller for reimbursement of the defense costs incurred by the county ~~in excess of that same amount and~~ subject to those same limitations. The bill would make this authorization applicable to any nonhomicide criminal trial or trials or any hearing commencing on or after January 1, 2012. The bill would authorize the Controller to adopt rules and regulations to carry out these provisions.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
 State-mandated local program: no.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 15205)
 2 is added to Part 6 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code,
 3 to read:

4
 5 CHAPTER 3.5. ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE: NONHOMICIDE
 6 TRIALS
 7

8 15205. The Legislature declares that: (1) the uniform
 9 administration of justice throughout the state is a matter of
 10 statewide interest; (2) the defense and conduct of trials of persons
 11 accused of nonhomicide crimes should not be hampered or delayed
 12 by any lack of funds available to the counties for these purposes;
 13 (3) a county should not be required to bear the entire defense costs
 14 of a trial involving a nonhomicide crime if these costs will seriously
 15 impair the finances of the county; and (4) it is the intention of the
 16 Legislature in enacting this chapter to provide for state assistance
 17 to counties in these emergency situations.

18 15205.2. As used in this chapter, “costs incurred by the county”
 19 means all costs, except normal salaries and expenses, incurred by
 20 the county in defending at trial or trials, including the trial or trials
 21 of a person or persons for the offense of a nonhomicide crime,
 22 including costs, except normal salaries and expenses, incurred by
 23 the public defender in investigation and defense. Trial defense

1 costs shall also include all pretrials, hearings, and postconviction
2 proceedings, if any.

3 15205.4. (a) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, when
4 the Attorney General is handling the investigation and prosecution
5 of a nonhomicide crime in a county, as specified in subdivision
6 (b), the county that is responsible for the defense costs of a trial
7 or trials or any hearing of a person for the offense of a nonhomicide
8 crime may apply to the Controller for reimbursement of the costs
9 incurred by the county ~~in excess of the amount of money derived~~
10 ~~by the county from a tax of 0.0125 of 1 percent of the full value~~
11 ~~of property assessed for purposes of taxation within the county.~~

12 (b) The county authorization in subdivision (a) shall apply to
13 any nonhomicide criminal trial or trials or any hearing commencing
14 on or after January 1, 2012. The county authorization in subdivision
15 (a) shall apply only to a trial or trials when the Attorney General
16 is handling investigation and prosecution of a nonhomicide crime
17 due to the scope and complexity of the case, and not when the
18 Attorney General is handling the prosecution of a nonhomicide
19 crime because a district attorney has been recused solely to avoid
20 a conflict of interest or for any other reason unrelated to the scope
21 and complexity of the case.

22 (c) The Controller shall not reimburse any county for costs that
23 exceed the California Victim Compensation and Government
24 Claims Board's standards for travel and per diem expenses. The
25 Controller may reimburse extraordinary costs in unusual cases if
26 the county provides sufficient justification of the need for these
27 expenditures. This section shall not permit the reimbursement of
28 costs for travel in excess of 1,000 miles on any single round trip,
29 without the prior approval of the Attorney General.

30 (d) Subject to appropriation by the Legislature, reimbursement
31 funds appropriated pursuant to this section shall be available for
32 three fiscal years from the date of the appropriation. After three
33 fiscal years, any unused funds shall revert back to the General
34 Fund.

35 15205.6. If the venue for trial of a nonhomicide criminal case
36 has been changed from the county that is eligible for reimbursement
37 under Section 15205.4 to another county, and the public defender
38 of that county has entered into a contract with an attorney to try
39 the case or an investigator to assist in the trial of the case, the
40 Controller shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature, reimburse

1 the county for the actual defense costs of the attorney or
 2 investigator under this section, at an hourly rate not to exceed the
 3 hourly rate charged to state agencies by the Attorney General for
 4 similar attorney services or investigators, without a further showing
 5 of justification. This section shall not permit the reimbursement
 6 of costs for travel in excess of 1,000 miles on any single round
 7 trip, without the prior approval of the Attorney General.

8 15205.8. If the county meets the conditions described in Section
 9 15205.4 and applies to the Controller for reimbursement pursuant
 10 to that section, and the Controller determines that the
 11 reimbursement meets the provisions of Section 15205.2, the
 12 Controller shall request that the Director of Finance include any
 13 amounts necessary to fulfill the purposes of Section 15205.4
 14 annually in a request for a deficiency appropriation in augmentation
 15 of the emergency fund.

16 15205.10. Subject to the rulemaking provisions of the
 17 Administrative Procedure Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with
 18 Section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2), the Controller
 19 may adopt rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this
 20 chapter.

21 SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
 22 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
 23 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
 24 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

25 In order to authorize a county that is responsible for the defense
 26 costs of a trial or trials or any hearing of a person for the offense
 27 of a nonhomicide crime, when the Attorney General is handling
 28 the prosecution of a nonhomicide crime in the county, to apply to
 29 the Controller for reimbursement of the defense costs incurred by
 30 the county, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.