
Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 25, 1999

An act relating to sentencing.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 873, as introduced, 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.

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
4 Regents), shall examine the costs and benefits of the
5 "three strikes" law, and report its findings to the
6 Legislature on or before July 1, 2000. The report shall
7 examine the extent to which reductions in serious crime

1 can be attributed to mandatory state incarceration
2 policies, and shall compare any ascertainable benefits
3 from crime prevention through incapacitation of various
4 types of offenders with the costs of incarcerating them.
5 The report shall also assess the degree to which the “three
6 strikes” law exacerbates selective law enforcement
7 problems, and the cost of corrective measures. The study
8 shall utilize existing resources of the participating
9 agencies.

