**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**April 9, 2015**

**Alberto Torrico**

As you know, SCOPO has two sponsored bills this legislative session:

SB 428 (Hall) - Jury Duty Exemption

This bill will bring Probation Officers, and other currently exempted peace officers, in line with police officers and deputy sheriffs who are exempted from jury duty.  Our bill, however, is not a full exemption.  We are only seeking an exemption for criminal trials, based on the potential harm that probation officers that serve as jurors in such trials from disgruntled defendants/probationers.

On behalf of SCOPO, we have submitted our “sponsor letter” as well as a number of member organizations’ “support letters”.  This bill has not yet been scheduled for hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.  The bill must be heard at some point in April.  As soon as it is set, I will let you know.

AB 989 (Cooper) - Juvenile Records

This bill seeks to “clean-up” some issues with SB 1038 from last year.  This bill purported to “seal” juvenile records in a very limited manner after successful completion of the juvenile’s sentence and/or probation terms.  Unfortunately, many county counsels have interpreted SB 1038 to including sealing of all probation records and files.  This creates a significant obstacle to proper placement and treatment of re-offending youths.  As a result, SB 989 seeks to remedy this on-going problem by allowing probation officers access to probation files for purpose of programming and other assessments.  There is a competing measure, AB 666 (Stone) which also purports to “clean up” some of the problems described herein.  Assembly Member Stone, however, also seeks to extend the sealing of juvenile records to 707 (b) offenses.  On that basis, SCOPO will oppose AB 666.

On behalf of SCOPO, we have submitted our “sponsor letter” as well as a number of member organizations’ “support letters”.  The bill will be heard in the Assembly Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, April 14.  I, along with President Paul Brennan, will testify in support of this bill.

Other bills of interest:

SCOPO Opposition

SB 124 (Leno) - Solitary Confinement

In essence, this bill would limit the use of “solitary confinement” in juvenile facilities to a maximum of 4 hours under all circumstances, with no exceptions.

This bill was heard in the Senate Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, April 7.  Greg Stuber, on behalf of Sacramento Probation, and I testified in opposition to the bill.  A similar bill was introduced by Senator Leland Yee 2 years ago and made it out of the Senate without a single no vote.  SCOPO was able to get the bill held in the Assembly Appropriations committee at that time.

Despite our best efforts, the bill passed the committee on a 5 to 2 vote (Dems for and Reeps against).  Below is a link to the hearing (look for the Senate Public Safety Committee hearing on April 7, 2015).  I recommend that SCOPO membership view this video (starting around the 1 hour 4 minute mark for a flavor of the testimony and the thought process for the committee members.

<http://www.calchannel.com/recent-archive/>

We will continue to oppose this bill as it makes its way through the legislative process.

AB 86 (McCarty) - Police Officers Independent Investigations

This bill has not yet been set for hearing.  SCOPO will submit a letter of opposition

AB 511 (Gipson) - Workers Compensation Presumption

SCOPO will be submitting a letter of support for this bill.

AB 303 (Gonzalez) - Searches - Juveniles

SCOPO will be submitting a letter of support for this bill that will require that strip searches of juveniles only be conducted or assisted by officers of the same gender.