

COMMITTEE BILL ANALYSIS

Bill: Senate Bill 130

Printer's No.: 77

Sponsor: Senator Gordner

Prepared by: Patrick Cawley

Synopsis: This bill amends Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) to prohibit persons sentenced to community service from purchasing credit towards that service in any form, including gift cards, cash, or other forms of remuneration.

Summary: The bill adds a new Section 9730.2 to Title 42. The new section prohibits any person sentenced to a term of supervised community service to purchase credit in lieu of performing the community service. The term “purchase” means the use of United States or foreign currency, a money order, a check, a debit or credit card, a gift card or certificate, or “any other form of remuneration.”

Effective date: The act takes effect in 60 days.

Background: This bill arose from circumstances in which a county Office of Probation and Parole allowed individuals who were sentenced to supervised community service to “purchase” credit towards that service by giving gift cards to the Office of Probation and Parole. Although the plan was to donate the gift cards to community groups, over \$4,000 in gift cards were discovered in an office safe.