

Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 1/9/2025 4:06 PM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2295

Patron: Earley

Bill Title: Public elementary and secondary schools; student discipline; reports of certain acts to law enforcement and parents; failure to make required reports prohibited; penalty.

Bill Summary: Makes (i) the failure of any principal to report, in accordance with applicable law, incidents involving certain school-based offenses to (a) law-enforcement or (b) the parent of any minor student who is the specific object of such an incident a Class 3 misdemeanor and (ii) any subsequent conviction under the provisions of the bill or any conviction for a substantially similar offense under the law of any political subdivision of the Commonwealth, any state or territory of the United States or any political subdivision thereof, the District of Columbia, or the United States a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: The anticipated state fiscal impact as a result of the misdemeanor offenses outlined in this bill is indeterminate. Any impact to localities is indeterminate.

Fiscal Summary: This bill creates new misdemeanor offenses and, therefore, may have an indeterminate state fiscal impact as explained below.

Fiscal Analysis: A Class 3 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$500. These offenses carry no jail time. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill from new class 3 misdemeanor offenses cannot be determined.

Anyone convicted of a Class 2 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to six months in jail and a fine of not more than \$1,000, either or both. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate the increase in jail population as a result of this proposal. However, any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays localities \$5.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds a large portion of the jails' operating costs, e.g., correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2024), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$56.38 per inmate, per day in FY 2023.

Other: None.