

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

including electrical upgrades and window replacements as needed. A more precise estimate of costs would require an analysis of each facility's infrastructure. Costs for the major prison facilities total \$64 million.

Additionally, DOC identified four smaller facilities that currently do not have air conditioning. The four facilities are Harrisonburg Community Corrections Alternative Program (CCAP), Appalachian CCAP, Cold Springs Field Unit, and Deerfield Work Center. Based on the recent HVAC project at Baskerville CC, DOC estimates it will cost \$3 million for each of the smaller facilities, for a total of \$12 million.

DOC currently has a capital project for installing air condition systems at its facilities. These seven facilities are not included in the projects that are funded through this capital project. The seven facilities are also not among those that received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds through a separate capital project for installing air conditioning systems.

Coupled with the additional infrastructure required to comply with the legislation, the language includes a requirement for DOC to supply individual heaters and electrical fans in every cell where an inmate is housed when the temperature is not within the required range. According to DOC, this requirement would lead to an increase in the electrical load beyond what many facilities are designed to support and would necessitate complete overhauls of electrical systems. DOC does not have cost estimates for tamper-resistant heaters, while tamper-resistant fans are estimated to cost \$23.50 per fan, the total cost is dependent on the number of units required. However, costs to procure enough heaters and fans to comply with the legislation and ensure every facility can maintain a sufficient level of inventory is expected to be significant. The cost of the tamper-resistant heaters and fans are indeterminate and not included in the \$76 million estimate related to infrastructure.

The proposed legislation requires DOC staff to perform frequent temperature checks in individual cells to ensure compliance with the required temperature range. According to DOC, this task would divert time and resources from other responsibilities. Staff would also need to perform regular inspections of the heaters and fans to detect damage or modifications, and additional surveillance would be required to monitor cell activity while the devices are in use. The agency believes these added responsibilities would place further strain on a workforce already facing significant staffing shortages. Moreover, the installation of heaters and fans would introduce considerable safety and security risks to both staff and inmates. DOC further contends that these items could be misused, modified or weaponized, and pose a potential fire risk. Additional discussion will be needed with the Fire Marshal to determine if placing electric heaters in individual cells would be compliant with the fire code.

Other: None