

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2556

Patron: Batten

Bill Title: Department of Law; Address Confidentiality Program; removal of Program participant; penalty.

Bill Summary: Permits the Office of the Attorney General to cancel a participant's certification in the Address Confidentiality Program if such Program participant (i) has reached the age of 18, is not incapacitated, and did not submit recertification for participation in the Program within 60 days of his eighteenth birthday or (ii) initiates any legal action against the Office of the Attorney General. The bill clarifies that participation in the Program shall not affect custody or visitation orders in effect prior to or during Program participation. Finally, the bill penalizes any individual who knowingly discloses or publishes a Program participant's confidential address or any other confidential information with intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass such Program participant or any other person.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This legislation does not generate a fiscal impact.

Fiscal Summary: The Office of the Attorney General and Department of Law indicates this bill presents no fiscal impact to the agency.

Criminal Penalty Impacts

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, 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.

Pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission estimates a fiscal impact of \$0 (the highest annual cost over the next six years). The amount is based on the projection that the legislation will result in zero additional offenders being incarcerated in prison.

Fiscal Analysis: See Fiscal Summary.

Other: This bill is identical to SB1092.