

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1859

Patron: Arnold

Bill Title: Unlawful picketing or parading to obstruct or influence justice; penalty.

Bill Summary: Provides that any person who, with the intent of interfering with, obstructing, or impeding the administration of justice, or with the intent of influencing or intimidating a judge, juror, witness, court officer, or court employee in the discharge of their duty, pickets or parades in or near a residence occupied or used by such judge, juror, witness, court officer, or court employee, or with such intent uses any sound truck, bullhorn, or similar device, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill also provides that the provisions regarding the issuance and service of summons in place of a warrant do not apply to such violations.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: Proceeds of all fines and penalties collected for offenses committed against the Commonwealth are paid into the state treasury to the credit of the Literary Fund. There is an indeterminate amount of possible revenue from fines to the Literary Fund and an indeterminate increase in the jail population.

Fiscal Analysis: 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.

Other: None.