

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2363

Patron: Wilt

Bill Title: Department of Corrections; designated employees with same power as sheriff or law-enforcement officer.

Bill Summary: Allows the Department of Corrections to designate employees to have the same power as a sheriff or a law-enforcement officer for the purpose of enforcing the criminal laws of the Commonwealth. Under current law, the Department can designate such employees with internal investigations authority to have such law-enforcement powers in the investigations of allegations of criminal behavior affecting the operations of the Department. Accordingly, the bill makes technical changes to additional sections that reference such designated employees such as in the definition of a law-enforcement officer used in various places throughout the Code and for the purposes of the Line of Duty Act, assault and battery of a law-enforcement officer, retired law-enforcement officers being able to carry a concealed handgun, and certain retired law-enforcement officers being able to purchase their service handgun or other weapon.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary:

The Department of Corrections (DOC) does not expect this proposal to have a fiscal impact on agency operations.

Fiscal Analysis:

This proposal potentially expands the DOC employees who could be eligible for Line of Duty Act (LODA) benefits. LODA provides benefits to eligible family members of eligible employees and volunteers killed in the line of duty and to those eligible employees and volunteers disabled in the line of duty and their eligible family members.

The current LODA premium is \$1,015.00 annually. If applicable, DOC would require a budget amendment for any additional premiums for FY 2026 if additional employees are designated as having law-enforcement powers and are covered by LODA benefits in the existing statute. Currently, DOC has 5,178 employees covered under LODA. Parole and Probation Officers are not covered under LODA. DOC reports that they do not intend to designate any additional employees to have law-enforcement powers if this bill is passed.

Other: None