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

PUBLISHED: 2/6/2025 8:58 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB1324E **Patron:** Surovell
Bill Title: Obstructing health care facility access; penalties.

Bill Summary: Creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person not authorized by the health care facility who knowingly obstructs, detains, hinders, impedes, blocks, or delays another person's entry to or exit from such health care facility, as defined in the bill. The bill also creates a Class 3 misdemeanor for any person who knowingly approaches another person within eight feet of such person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of 40 feet from any entrance door to a health care facility, unless such other person consents to the approach, for the purpose of giving, tendering, or exhibiting any material to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: See fiscal analysis.

Fiscal Summary: The potential fiscal implications of this proposal are indeterminate..

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.

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 cannot be determined.

Other: None.