

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

PUBLISHED: 1/15/2026 9:25 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB317

Patron: Pope Adams

Bill Title: Damage or trespass to public services or utilities; penalties.

Bill Summary: Adds the intentional destruction of or damage to any facility that is used to furnish communications service to the public to the existing offense of damage or trespass to public services or utilities.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: Item 390

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

Proposal requires minimum “Woodrum” impact funding per § 30-19.1:4, Code of Virginia, to account for a possible increase in the need for state prison beds due to this legislation.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Dept. of Corrections		\$50,000				
TOTAL		\$50,000				

Fiscal Analysis:

This proposal expands the applicability of a Class 4 felony. Anyone convicted of a Class 4 felony is subject to a term imprisonment of not less than two years nor more than 10 years and a fine of not more than \$100,000. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to prison.

Due to the lack of data, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has concluded, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, that the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space cannot be determined. In such cases, Chapter 725, 2025 Acts of Assembly, requires that a minimum impact of \$50,000 be assigned to the bill.

This proposal also expands the applicability of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 3 misdemeanor is subject to 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

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convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill on the Literary Fund cannot be determined.

Other: None