

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB295

Patron: Cornett

Bill Title: Aggravated murder defined; correctional officers; punishment.

Bill Summary: Adds to the definition of aggravated murder, which is a Class 1 felony, the willful, deliberate, and premeditated killing of a correctional officer, defined in relevant law, when such killing is for the purpose of interfering with the performance of his official duties. The bill also provides that where the offender was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense, the punishment shall be no less than a mandatory minimum term of confinement for life.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None

Explanation: This bill does not require "Woodrum" impact funding per § 30-19.1:4, Code of Virginia.

Fiscal Summary: No fiscal impact

Fiscal Analysis:

This bill expands the applicability of a Class 1 felony. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 felony is subject to imprisonment for life and a fine of not more than \$100,000. Any person who was 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense and who is sentenced to imprisonment for life upon conviction of a Class 1 felony shall not be eligible for (i) parole, (ii) any good conduct allowance or any earned sentence credits under Chapter 6 (§ 53.1-186 et seq.) of Title 53.1, or (iii) conditional release pursuant to § 53.1-40.01 or 53.1-40.02.

Per the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission (VCSC), the proposed legislation is not expected to increase the state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth during the six-year window specified by § 3019.1:4 for legislative impact statements. Therefore, VCSC estimates the impact of the proposed bill on state-responsible bed space is \$0.

Other: None