

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Department of State Police (VSP), the proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on agency operations. The bill directs DCJS to develop a model policy for and restrictions on the use of facial coverings by law-enforcement officers, however, it is expected that any associated cost can be absorbed with existing resources. If additional legislation is passed that requires model policy development, then the agency may expect a fiscal impact.

Department of Planning and Budget
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State Fiscal Impact Statement

The bill also creates a Class 1 misdemeanor. 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 2025), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$58.25 per inmate, per day in FY 2024.

Other: Companion bill to HB7