

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

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ORIGINAL

**Bill Number:** SB707                    **Patron:** Diggs  
**Bill Title:** Devocalization of dogs; penalty.

**Bill Summary:** Provides that it is unlawful for any person to perform or cause to be performed a surgical devocalization procedure on a dog except when (i) training or electronic barking control devices such as electronic collars have proven ineffective for such dog's excessive barking and (ii) it would be necessary for such dog to be rehomed due to its excessive barking. Any violation of such provision is a Class 1 misdemeanor, and the second or any subsequent conviction for such violation during a 36-month period is a Class 6 felony. The bill also requires any licensed veterinarian who performs a surgical devocalization on a dog to keep a record of such procedure for a period of four years.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

**Items Impacted:** Item 390

**Explanation:** This bill involves the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the Department of Corrections (DOC) and will have a state fiscal impact. See Fiscal Analysis section below.

**Fiscal Summary:** This legislation 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.

**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	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	-	<b>\$50,000</b>	-	-	-	-

**Fiscal Analysis:** This impact statement is preliminary. VDACS does not anticipate any fiscal impact from this legislation.

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 misdemeanor 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.

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For someone convicted of a Class 6 felony, a judge has the option of sentencing the offender to a term of imprisonment of not less than one year nor more than five years, or in the discretion of the jury or the court trying the case without a jury, confinement in jail for not more than 12 months and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to jail or prison.

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 the localities \$5.00 a day for each misdemeanor or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail and \$15.00 a day for each state-responsible prisoner. It also funds a considerable 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.

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.

Proceeds of all fines and penalties collected for offenses committed against the Commonwealth are paid into the state treasury to the credit of the Literary Fund.

**Other:** None.