

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

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REVISED

**Bill Number:** HB81

**Patron:** Price

**Bill Title:** State agencies; amendment of regulations pertaining to the maximum temperature at which certain rooms may be kept.

**Bill Summary:** Directs the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS), the Department of Health (VDH), and the Department of Corrections (DOC) to amend their regulations to provide that the maximum temperature at which certain rooms in specified types of facilities regulated by such agencies may be kept shall be no more than 77 degrees Fahrenheit.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** Item 388 or new capital item under DOC

**Explanation:** There are nine state correctional facilities that currently lack air conditioning. If the intent of this legislation is to address these state correctional facilities to meet the maximum 77 degrees Fahrenheit requirement in the bill, extensive expenditures would be necessary as described below. If the intent is to instead address only local jails, the potential cost is indeterminate.

**Fiscal Summary:** DOC estimates that for the nine state correctional facilities that currently lack air conditioning, it requires \$72,700,000 to pay for HVAC installation, roof replacements, generators, electrical system upgrades to handle the increased load, and window replacements. The estimate is for a one-time cost in FY2027.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
79900		72,700,000				
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>72,700,000</b>				

**Fiscal Analysis:** The total \$72,700,000 estimate for DOC stems from the sum of the following estimates for the nine facilities: \$20,000,000 for Buckingham Correctional Center, \$25,000,000 for Nottoway Correctional Center, \$2,000,000 for Rustburg Correctional Unit, \$2,000,000 for Caroline Correctional Unit, \$2,700,000 for Deerfield Men's Work Center, \$3,000,000 for Appalachian Community Corrections Alternative Program, \$12,000,000 for Bland Correctional Center, \$3,000,000 for Cold Springs Correctional Unit, and \$3,000,000 for Harrisonburg Community Corrections Alternative Program.

The bill states in part that "... the Department of Corrections shall amend its regulations to reduce the maximum temperature that may be maintained in all rooms in local correctional facilities from 85 degrees

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Fahrenheit to 77 degrees Fahrenheit.” DOC has made their cost estimates assuming that the bill’s language is changed to apply to “housing units” rather than “all rooms” and that “state correctional facilities” rather than “local correctional facilities” was the intent of the bill. If the intent of the legislation is only for DOC to modify its regulations for local jails, the fiscal impact for the agency is indeterminant.

DSS (for two of three types of facilities; see **Other** for third type), DJJ, and VDH all indicate either no fiscal impact or that any fiscal impacts that may arise are expected to be addressed with existing resources. DBHDS reports that the bill may have an impact, however the cost is indeterminate.

**Other:** The bill states in part that “the Department of Social Services shall amend its regulations to … reduce the temperature at which fans or other cooling systems are required to be used in inside areas of licensed family day homes occupied by children from above 80 degrees Fahrenheit to 77 degrees Fahrenheit.” Because these family day homes are now licensed and regulated by the Department of Education (DOE), as written the bill would not address such family day homes unless the text refers to the Department of Education instead. If the bill is so amended, DOE reports the agency can address applicable costs with existing resources.

Except for the mention of juvenile correctional centers in Section 2 of this proposal, the various provisions could be seen as just impacting local government and private facilities. If the intent of this legislation is to ensure that state correctional facilities meet the proposed temperature requirements, consideration should be given to providing clarifying language.