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

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Bill Number: SB689 **Patron:** Mulchi
Bill Title: Oral threat to kill or to do bodily harm; employees of local or state department of social services; penalty.

Bill Summary: Creates a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person who orally makes a threat to kill or do bodily injury to any call-center contractor or employee of the Department of Social Services or a local department of social services who is engaged in the performance of his duties.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** n/a

Fiscal Summary: No fiscal impact is expected for the Department of Social Services (DSS). This bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor; accordingly, any fiscal impacts related to an increase in jail population are indeterminate and any revenue impacts to the Literary Fund associated with the collection of fines are also indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: This legislation expands the list of professionals for which orally making a threat to kill or commit bodily harm is considered a Class 1 misdemeanor to include call-center contractors or employees at either the Department of Social Services (DSS) or local departments of social services (LDSS). DSS reports that this legislation aligns oral threat response mechanisms with existing response mechanisms for written threats and will not result in new responsibilities or costs for DSS or LDSS.

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.

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. Any revenue impacts to the Literary Fund resulting from fines collected pursuant to this legislation are indeterminate.

Other: SB689 may be a companion to HB1159.