

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB496ES1

Patron: Marsden

Bill Title: Secure storage of handguns; unattended locked vehicle; penalty.

Bill Summary: The engrossed bill. The bill also creates a Class 4 misdemeanor for any person who fails to securely store a handgun, revolver, or other firearm that has a barrel length of less than 16 inches in a locked hard-sided container out of plain view in an unattended vehicle, defined in the bill. The engrossed bill adds that a handgun may be secured in a locked container that is affixed to the vehicle's interior by steel cable, bolt, or welding. This type of container includes a locked glove compartment or locked center console. It also adds that the penalty will not apply to anyone who reports the theft or loss of such firearm to a law-enforcement agency.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

There is an indeterminate amount of possible civil penalty revenue to the Literary Fund.

Fiscal Analysis:

A Class 4 misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of up to \$250. These offenses do not carry jail time. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill cannot be determined.

The proposed bill does not apply to law enforcement officers as defined in § 9.1-101.

Other: None