

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

PUBLISHED: 2/17/2026 10:50 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1453

Patron: Williams

Bill Title: Approaching a first responder with specified intent after a warning; penalty.

Bill Summary: This proposal makes it unlawful for any person, after receiving a verbal warning not to approach from a person he knows or reasonably should know is a first responder who is engaged in the lawful performance of an official duty, to knowingly and willfully violate such warning and approach or remain within 25 feet of the first responder with the specific intent to impede or interfere with the first responder's ability to perform such duty, threaten the first responder with physical harm, or harass the first responder. The proposal makes a violation of this section guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor for a first offense and a second or subsequent offense is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: Not applicable

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated fiscal impact on the state as a result of this proposal.

Fiscal Analysis: This proposal creates a Class 4 misdemeanor and makes a second or subsequent offense a Class 2 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 2 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to six months in jail and a fine of not more than \$1,000, either or both. 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.

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: None.