

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Department of State Police (VSP), the proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on agency operations. The substitute bill directs DCJS to develop a model policy on the wearing of facial coverings by law-enforcement officers, however, it is expected that any associated cost can be absorbed with existing resources. If multiple bills pass requiring similar model policy or training development, then the agency would need to hire one additional position to support the increased workload. DCJS estimates that the workload increase of up to four or five similar bills can be absorbed, dependent on subject matter and complexity. The

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estimated annual cost for one criminal justice analyst position to support training or model policy development and regular updates is \$138,621, including salary and benefits.

The bill creates a Class 1 misdemeanor. 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.

Other: None