



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation
Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission

Senate Bill 50
 Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute
 (Original Patron - Rouse)

LD#: 26108974

Date: 03/02/2026

Topic: Lobbying of local government officials

Fiscal Impact Summary:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Adult Correctional Facilities: \$50,000 * • Local Adult Correctional Facilities: Cannot be determined, likely to be small • Adult Community Corrections Programs: Cannot be determined, likely to be small 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juvenile Correctional Centers: Cannot be determined (likely negligible)** • Juvenile Detention Facilities: Cannot be determined (likely negligible). ** <p>** Provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice</p>
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* The estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, fiscal impact statements prepared by the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission only include the estimated increase in operating costs associated with additional state-responsible prison beds and do not reflect any other costs or savings that may be associated with the proposed legislation.

Summary of Proposed Legislation:

The proposal broadens the definitions of lobbying under §§ 2.2-419, 2.2-420, 2.2-425, 2.2-426, and 2.2-432 of the *Code of Virginia* to include efforts to influence, or attempts to influence, actions by local governments, as well as the solicitation of others to do so. Under § 2.2-426, it would constitute a Class 5 felony for a lobbyist to knowingly make a false statement of material fact on a required disclosure statement when lobbying local government officials. Additionally, § 2.2-432 would prohibit lobbying arrangements in which compensation is contingent upon the outcome of local government action.¹

Analysis:

Existing data sources do not provide sufficient detail to determine how many individuals would be affected by the proposal. According to data from the Circuit Court Case Management System (CMS) for fiscal years (FY) 2020 through 2025, there were no convictions under § 2.2-426 for making a false statement on a disclosure statement during this six-year period. Similarly, data from the General District Court CMS show no misdemeanor convictions under §§ 2.2-432 or 2.2-433 during the same timeframe.

Impact of Proposed Legislation:

¹ Under current law, the felony offense defined in § 8.01-4.3 is eligible for the enhanced sentence credits specified in § 53.1-202.3, whereby individuals serve a minimum of 67% of the sentence ordered by the court.

State adult correctional facilities. By expanding the applicability of an existing Class 5 felony, the proposal may increase the future state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. Available data do not provide sufficient detail to estimate the number of new felony convictions that may result from the proposal; therefore, the magnitude of the impact on prison bed space needs cannot be determined.

Local adult correctional facilities. Similarly, by expanding the applicability of existing offenses, the proposal may increase local-responsible (jail) bed space needs. Because the number of new convictions resulting from the proposal cannot be determined, the magnitude of the impact on jail beds cannot be quantified.

Adult community corrections programs. Because the proposal could result in felony convictions and subsequent supervision requirements for an additional number of offenders, the proposal may increase the need for adult community corrections resources. Since the number of cases that may be affected cannot be determined, the potential impact on community corrections resources cannot be estimated.

Virginia's Sentencing Guidelines. The Sentencing Guidelines do not currently cover offenses related to lobbying under § 2.2-426 when such a felony is the primary (or most serious) offense. However, such convictions may augment the Guidelines recommendation (as additional offenses) if the most serious offense at sentencing is covered by the Guidelines. Offenses outlined in Title 2.2 are not defined as violent under § 17.1-805(C) for the purposes of the Guidelines. No adjustment to the Guidelines would be necessary under the proposal.

Juvenile direct care. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice, the impact of the proposal on direct care (juvenile correctional center or alternative commitment placement) bed space needs is estimated to be \$0.

Juvenile detention facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the proposal's impact on the bed space needs of juvenile detention facilities is estimated to be \$0.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 725 of the Acts of Assembly of 2025 requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.