

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

PUBLISHED: 3/5/2026 10:07 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB317ER **Patron:** Pope Adams
Bill Title: Damage or trespass to public services or utilities; penalties.

Bill Summary: The enrolled bill adds the intentional destruction of or damage to any fixture, equipment, or information technology system that is used to provide, process, transmit, furnish, or maintain cable television and broadband services to the public to the existing offense of damage or trespass to public services or utilities. The enrolled bill also expands the Class 4 felony for destruction or damage might threaten the release of increased radioactive materials or ionizing radiation to include damage to an information technology system. If exposure to such increased release of radioactive materials or ionizing radiation causes injury to another person, the person causing the damage or destruction is guilty of a Class 3 felony; however, it is a Class 2 felony if such damage or destruction causes the death of another person.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 390
Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

Proposal requires minimum “Woodrum” impact funding per § 30-19.1:4, Code of Virginia, to account for a possible increase in the need for state prison beds due to this legislation.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
Dept. of Corrections		\$50,000				
TOTAL		\$50,000				

Fiscal Analysis:

This proposal expands the applicability of a Class 4, Class 3, and Class 2 felony. Anyone convicted of a Class 4 felony is subject to a term imprisonment of not less than two years nor more than 10 years and a fine of not more than \$100,000. Anyone convicted of a Class 3 felony is subject to a term of imprisonment of not less than five years nor more than 20 years and a fine of not more than \$100,000. Anyone convicted of a Class 2 felony is subject to imprisonment for life or for any term not less than 20 years and a fine of not more than \$100,000. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to prison.

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Due to the lack of data, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has concluded, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, that the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space cannot be determined. In such cases, Chapter 7, 2026 Acts of Assembly, requires that a minimum impact of \$50,000 be assigned to the bill.

This proposal also expands the applicability of a Class 3 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 3 misdemeanor is subject to a fine of up to \$500. These offenses carry no 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 on the Literary Fund cannot be determined.

Other: Similar to SB743