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

PUBLISHED: 3/6/2026 1:43 PM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB276H1 **Patron:** Williams Graves
Bill Title: State correctional facilities; visitation policies; annual report.

Bill Summary: The substitute bill sets additional visitation standards for visitors to state correctional facilities. The bill requires the Department of Corrections (the Department) to provide extended or additional visitation access for long-distance visitors who reside at least 150 miles from the correctional facility. The bill provides that each in-person visit shall last a minimum of two hours unless shortened at the request of either the visitor or the incarcerated individual. The bill also provides that visitation privileges may be suspended only for conduct occurring during visitation that presents a direct and substantial threat to the physical safety of participants or the security of the correctional facility. The bill provides a timeline and process for appealing any suspension of visitation rights. The bill requires the Department to collect and publish data in an annual report to the General Assembly. The substitute bill requires the Department to convene a work group consisting of relevant stakeholders to consider goals and develop practical policy and legislative recommendations related to facilitating visitation within state correctional facilities.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary:

According to the Department of Corrections (DOC), the fiscal impact of this proposal is indeterminant at this time.

Fiscal Analysis:

This bill would require DOC to collect and annually publish data disaggregated by facility and month that includes the total number of in-person visits, number of “unique” visitors, and the age of each visitor, reasons for visit denials, suspensions or terminations, the average visit duration, capacity utilization rates, and the results of visitor and inmate feedback surveys conducted not more than once each year. Currently, DOC’s management information system can only provide the total number of in-person visits. According to DOC, the agency would have to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase of a new visitation scheduler that would capture the required data. DOC is unable to estimate the cost of this proposal until the RFP is complete.

DOC confirmed the updated visitation policies and workgroup in this proposal would not require any additional staff costs.

Other: Identical to HB173H1