

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2001 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB2348

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron**        McEachin

**3. Committee**    Militia and Police

**4. Title**            Child safety locks required for sale or transfer of firearms.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** This legislation proposes to amend §18.2-308.5:1 of the Code of Virginia to make it unlawful for any licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer to sell, deliver, or transfer any handgun (i) to any person other than a licensed manufacturer, licensed importer, or licensed dealer, unless the transferee is provided with a locking device for that handgun, or (ii) to any person, unless the handgun is accompanied by a warning in conspicuous and legible type in capital letters printed on a label affixed to the gun and on a separate sheet of paper included within the packaging enclosing the handgun, warning that handguns should be locked and kept away from children and that there may be civil and criminal liability for failing to do so. A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates** are: Tentative. See item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.

8. **Fiscal implications:** The fiscal implications of this legislation are uncertain. The impact cannot be determined because the number of people who might violate the provisions of the code is unknown.

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor can be sentenced to time in jail. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant held in a jail and \$14.00 a day for each state responsible inmate. It also funds most 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, the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$30.54 per inmate, per day in FY 1999.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Local law enforcement, Sheriffs, and the Compensation Board

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** None.

11. **Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 01/18/01 / mem

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety