

## Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB 2356

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. **Patron** Weatherholtz

3. **Committee** Passed both houses.

4. **Title** Methamphetamines

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

Currently, Virginia's sentencing guidelines treat offenses involving cocaine differently than those involving other types of Schedule I or II drugs. Generally, the guidelines provide for more stringent penalties than they do for other types of drugs. The proposed legislation would require the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to develop separate guidelines also for offenses involving the possession and distribution of methamphetamine. Any guidelines developed by the Commission would have to be submitted to the General Assembly before they would become effective.

6. **Fiscal Impact:** See Item No. 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** None.

8. **Fiscal implications:**

Sentencing guidelines that would increase the penalties for offenses involving methamphetamine could result in increasing the number of inmates housed in state prisons. However, until the guidelines are developed, the extent of any increase, if any, cannot be projected.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Corrections

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

11. **Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 02/21/01 / rwh

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety

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