



## Impact Analysis on Proposed Legislation

### *Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission*

#### **House Bill No. 1**

#### *Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Patrons Prior to Substitute – Cosgrove et al.)*

**Date Submitted:** 2/2/04

**LD #:** 04-0976404

**Topic:** Homicide of a fetus

#### **Proposed Change:**

The proposal adds § 18.2-32.2 to the *Code of Virginia* to create two new crimes. Paragraph A specifies that any person who unlawfully, willfully, deliberately, maliciously, and with premeditation kills the fetus of another is guilty of a Class 2 felony. Paragraph B specifies that any person who unlawfully, willfully, maliciously, and deliberately kills the fetus of another is guilty of a felony punishable by five to 40 years.

Under subsection A of § 18.2-51.2, the malicious wounding of any person with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill is punishable as a Class 2 felony if the victim is severely injured and suffers permanent and significant physical impairment. However, a child in utero is not specifically designated a potential victim of this crime. Under subsection B of § 18.2-51.2, the malicious wounding of a pregnant woman with the intent to maim, disfigure, disable or kill her or to cause the involuntary termination of her pregnancy is also a Class 2 felony.

#### **Data Analysis:**

Based on fiscal year (FY) 2000 and FY2001 Pre/Post-Sentence Investigation (PSI) data, there were no convictions for violations of subsection B of § 18.2-51.2 either as the primary (most serious) offense or an additional offense in a sentencing event. There were 118 convictions for violations of subsection A of § 18.2-51.2 as the primary offense in a sentencing event. Of these, 109 (92%) received state-responsible (prison) terms with a median effective sentence of fifteen years.

#### **Impact of Proposed Legislation:**

The proposed legislation establishes two new crimes that are not specifically defined in the current *Code*. The proposed legislation may have an impact on the bed space needs of the Commonwealth. However, the databases available to the Commission are insufficient to provide information on the number of incidences that may be affected by the proposed legislation.

**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 and is \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**

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The Commission provides analyses of the impact on prison and jail bed space and community corrections placement needs in accordance with § 30-19.1:4. Impact analyses do not comment on the merits of the bill under review.