

Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 640

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. Patron Abbitt

3. Committee Passed both houses

4. Title Bodily injury to law enforcement officers

5. Summary/Purpose:

Under the provisions of current law, anyone who wounds a law-enforcement officer, firefighter, search and rescue personnel, or emergency medical service personnel while such person was engaged in the performance of his official duties shall be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence—two years for malicious wounding and one year for unlawful wounding. “Law-enforcement officer” is defined to include any of several categories of personnel responsible for enforcing the law. The proposed legislation would add game wardens to the list of law-enforcement officers covered by the legislation.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Final. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: None.

8. Fiscal implications:

By adding another category of law-enforcement officer covered by the provision, the proposed legislation may result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to a mandatory minimum term and, therefore, increase the number of offenders committed to the state’s correctional facilities. However, because there is insufficient information available regarding the wounding of game wardens, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has concluded that the impact of the legislation cannot be determined.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 03/29/04 / rwh

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cc: Secretary of Finance