

Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB668 H1

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

2. Patron Bell

3. Committee Courts of Justice (Senate)

4. Title Juvenile alcohol offenses.

5. Summary/Purpose:

This bill is meant to clearly define that it is illegal for an underage person to consume alcoholic beverages as well as to purchase or possess them. Currently, the Code does not specifically address the act of consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under the age of 21. Anyone convicted of underage consumption of alcohol will be found guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: (Preliminary) See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications:

The maximum penalty for a person convicted of a Class I misdemeanor is up to 12 months in prison and a \$2,500 fine. This bill requires that a person found guilty shall be ordered to pay a fine of at least \$500 or ordered to perform a minimum of 50 hours of community service as a condition of probation supervision. While there is data available regarding the acts of possession and/or purchase of alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21, there is currently no data available relating to consumption of alcohol by underage individuals. This makes it impossible to produce a reliable estimate of the number of people that would be impacted by this bill.

Anyone convicted of a Class I misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a maximum fine of \$2,500. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds the majority of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs varies from locality to locality. According to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (FY 2002), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$29.80 per inmate, per day in FY 2002.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Local Courts and Jails, Compensation Board

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 02/20/04 / SXD

Document: G\ FIS\HB668H1.DOC

cc: Secretary of Administration