

Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2854

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

2. Patron Amundson

3. Committee Passed both houses

4. Title Testing of persons convicted of certain crimes for hepatitis C.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Requires hepatitis C testing of persons convicted under statutes prohibiting prostitution, crimes against nature and certain drug offenses indicating intravenous use. Under current law persons convicted of prostitution and crimes against nature must be tested for HIV. This bill adds drug crimes to that provision. The bill also contains provisions related to the sharing and confidentiality of hepatitis C test results.

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

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications:

The potential fiscal impact of this bill is uncertain. Exact data is not available, but the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission estimates that approximately 7,100 individuals could potentially be subject to testing for hepatitis C under this legislation

The Department of Health advises that a basic test for identifying whether an individual has been exposed to hepatitis C costs \$18.95 per test. With the assumption that roughly 7,100 convicted individuals might require testing for hepatitis C, at a cost of \$18.95 per test, the annual cost would be \$134,545. The Commonwealth is responsible for paying for these tests via general fund support for the Criminal Fund, but may recover some of this expense through court costs assessed against the offenders. The court costs are deposited to the general fund.

Although there is potential that additional funding will be needed for the Criminal Fund in future years due to this legislation, the amount is small enough that it will be difficult to determine whether this action or other reasons are driving the Criminal Fund costs upwards.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Local and regional jails; state correctional facilities, Department of Health and local health departments

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 3/16/05 mdm

Document: G:\FIS\HB2854ER.Doc

cc: Secretary of Administration
Secretary of Health and Human Services