

Department of Planning and Budget
2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** SB368

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

2. **Patron** Marsh

3. **Committee** Courts of Justice

4. **Title** Displaying video game ratings; penalty.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** Prohibits the open display to the public by any merchant of a video game that has been assigned a rating symbol by a national computer or video game industry organization indicating that the content of the game may be suitable only for persons age 17 or older unless the rating symbol is clearly and prominently printed on or affixed to the video game's box or package. A violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** PRELIMINARY; See item 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** No.

8. **Fiscal implications:** Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. 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 most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (FY 2004), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$26.03 per inmate, per day in FY 2004.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Local and regional jails, Compensation Board, state and local law enforcement agencies.

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No.

11. **Other comments:** None.

Date: 01/25/06 jgc

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety
Secretary of Administration