



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission

House Bill No. 429

Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (Patron Prior to Substitute – Marshall)

LD#: 08-0524616

Date: 1/17/2008

Topic: Forced or coerced abortion

Fiscal Impact Summary:

- **State Adult Correctional Facilities:**
Cannot be determined
- **Local Adult Correctional Facilities:**
Cannot be determined
- **Adult Community Corrections Programs:**
Cannot be determined

- **Juvenile Correctional Centers:**
None
- **Juvenile Detention Facilities:**
None

Summary of Proposed Legislation:

The proposal adds § 18.2-71.2 to prohibit any person from forcing or coercing a pregnant female of any age to have an abortion against her will. The proposed crime is a Class 1 misdemeanor. The crime is raised to a Class 6 felony if the pregnant female is under the age of 18.

Analysis:

No convictions under the existing § 18.2-71 (relating to unlawfully producing an abortion) were identified in fiscal year (FY) 2006 and FY2007 Pre/Post-Sentence Investigation data.

According to the Virginia Department of Health, there were 25,822 induced pregnancy terminations in Virginia in 2005¹. The number of cases in which a pregnant female may have been forced or coerced to have the procedure cannot be determined with existing data.

Impact of Proposed Legislation:

State adult correctional facilities. Because it creates a new felony offense, the proposal may increase the future state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. The magnitude of the impact, however, cannot be quantified with existing data.

Local adult correctional facilities. The proposal may increase local-responsible (jail) bed space needs because it creates a new felony and a new misdemeanor. The magnitude of the impact cannot be quantified with existing data.

¹ <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/healthstats/stats.asp>

Adult community corrections resources. Because the proposal could result in felony convictions and subsequent supervision requirements for an additional number of offenders, the proposal may increase the need for adult community corrections resources. Since the number of cases that may be affected by the proposal cannot be determined, the potential impact on community corrections resources cannot be quantified.

Virginia's sentencing guidelines. As new crimes, convictions under § 18.2-71.2 would not be covered by the sentencing guidelines as the primary (most serious) offense at conviction. If enacted, however, convictions under this statute may augment the guidelines recommendation if a covered offense is the most serious at conviction. No adjustment to the guidelines would be necessary under the proposal.

Juvenile correctional centers. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the proposal is not expected to increase juvenile correctional center (JCC) bed space needs.

Juvenile detention facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the proposal is not expected to increase the bed space needs of juvenile detention facilities.

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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