

## Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB853

House of Origin    \_\_\_ Introduced    X Substitute    \_\_\_ Engrossed  
Second House      X In Committee    \_\_\_ Substitute    \_\_\_ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Edwards

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** Carbon monoxide detectors in certain buildings.

**5. Summary:** Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to promulgate carbon monoxide alarm requirements in residential occupancies and dwelling units serviced by fuel-fired appliances.

**6. Fiscal impact estimates are indeterminate.** See item 8, below.

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 391 (Department of Corrections) and Item 413 (Department of Juvenile Justice).

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation requires DHCD to develop and promulgate regulations requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in residential occupancies and dwelling units serviced by fuel-fired appliances. The development of these new regulations will have some fiscal impact to the department, but it is expected to be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Depending on the specifics of the regulations, the bill may have a fiscal impact to multiple state agencies, including the Departments of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Corrections (DOC), Juvenile Justice (DJJ), General Services (DGS), and Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), as well as the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC) and the state's various colleges and universities.

According to DCR, the impact is indeterminate and will depend on how "fuel-fired appliance" is defined in the regulations. If it applies to natural gas, propane, or oil, then the impact will be minimal, because most parks facilities that use these heat sources are already equipped with carbon monoxide detectors. However, if it also applies to wood burning fireplaces and stoves, then the impact will be higher, and will apply to 260 cabins and 105 residences. The proposed bill will also impact DOC. Again, pending the development of the regulations, DOC estimates that the cost could be approximately \$1.5 million if detectors are required in both its Residential and Institutional occupancies; this assumes 1,900 fuel-fired devices each necessitating the installation of a detector at an estimated cost of \$800. The \$800 estimate includes the cost of the device, labor, and integration with existing fire alarm system(s). Similarly, DJJ estimates its costs to be approximately \$400,000, if detectors are included in both Residential and Institutional occupancies. Both DOC and DJJ would require additional funding to address these costs. According to DGS, the bill could have a minimal,

but absorbable, impact to the agency. WWRC estimates the costs of installing 312 detectors to be approximately \$149,000. According to WWRC, the cost could be absorbed within existing resources. DBVI estimates the costs of installing carbon monoxide detectors to be approximately \$40,000.

Cost estimates are not currently available for the colleges and universities.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Departments of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Corrections (DOC), Juvenile Justice (DJJ), General Services (DGS), Blind and Visually Impaired (DBVI), and Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services, as well as the Woodrow Wilson Rehabilitation Center (WWRC), the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind at Staunton, and the state's various colleges and universities.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/17/2009 tmw

**Document:** G:\2009 Session\Legislation\Fiscal Impact Statements\SB853.doc

cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Secretary of Health and Human Resources  
Secretary of Public Safety  
Secretary of Natural Resources  
Secretary of Education