

# Department of Planning and Budget

## 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number: HB 239**

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

**2. Patron: Janis**

**3. Committee: Passed both houses**

**4. Title: Definition of law enforcement officer**

**5. Summary:**

Section 9.1-101 of the Code of Virginia defines “law-enforcement officer”. The sentences of numerous offenses are enhanced if the victim is a law-enforcement officer and the statutes setting out the sentences for several of these offenses refer to the definition of law-enforcement officer in § 9.1-101.

The proposed legislation would expand the definition of law-enforcement officer in § 9.1-101 to include “animal protection police officers” employed in counties using the county manager form of government. An animal protection police officer is a member of the county’s police department who has the legal powers of an animal control officer, as well as all the powers vested in law-enforcement officers.

**6. No Fiscal Impact:** Final. See Item 8.

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal Implications:**

Henrico County is the only county using the county manager form of government. Although the proposed legislation would expand the definition of law-enforcement officer, thereby making more officials covered by statutes with enhanced penalties if the victim is a law-enforcement officer, not all such statutes use the definition set out in § 9-101 and the proposal would be applicable to only one jurisdiction. Therefore, it is not expected that the legislation would result in an increase in the need for prison or jail bed space.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

Department of Corrections  
Local and regional jails

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: 3/30/2010 dpb

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