

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 239

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

2. Patron: Stuart, Richard H.

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporting, penalties

5. Summary: The proposed legislation reduces the time allowed for reporting suspected child abuse or neglect by a mandated reporter from 72 hours to 24 hours and provides that failure to report is punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor for the first failure and a Class 1 misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense. Current law is a fine of not more than \$500 for a first offense and not less than \$100 or more than \$1,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact: See item 8

8. Fiscal Implications: A person convicted of a Class 3 misdemeanor is subject to a fine not to exceed \$500. 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 presently pays the localities \$4.00 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 (November 2011), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$29.98 per inmate, per day in FY 2010.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Compensation Board
Local and regional jails

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/20/12

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