

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB851-E

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

2. Patron: LeMunyon

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Assault and battery; school employees; penalty.

5. Summary: Provides that a battery against any full-time or part-time employee of a public or private elementary school who is engaged in the performance of his duties is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor and the punishment shall include a sentence of 15 days in jail, two days of which shall be a mandatory minimum sentence. Currently, only a battery against a teacher, principal, assistant principal, or guidance counselor is subject to this enhanced penalty for battery.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: Although insufficient data exists to determine the fiscal impact due to this proposal, the proposed legislation could result in an increase in the jail population since Class 1 misdemeanor outcomes result in sentences of up to 12 months in jail (and a fine up to \$2,500). 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 FY2012 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 2013), the estimated total state support for local and regional jails averaged \$30.06 per state inmate, per day in FY 2012.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Law enforcement agencies statewide, local and regional jails, State Compensation Board.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 30, 2014

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