

## Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number: HB 96**

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

**2. Patron: Head**

**3. Committee: Reported from Appropriations**

**4. Title: Reckless driving**

**5. Summary:**

Under current law, reckless driving is a Class 6 felony if the offender were driving while his license was suspended for a moving violation and his driving was the sole and proximate cause of the death of another person.

The proposed legislation would expand the applicability of the offense to include a person driving with a license suspended for any reason, not just for a moving violation, and whose driving was the proximate cause of death of another, rather than the sole and proximate cause.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 385.**

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

**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	\$50,000	General
2016		
2017		
2018		
2019		
2020		

**8. Fiscal Implications:**

For someone convicted of a Class 6 felony, a judge has the option of sentencing him to up to one year in jail, or 1 to 5 years in prison. Therefore, by expanding the applicability of a

Class 6 felony offense, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to jail or prison.

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 misdemeanor or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail and \$12.00 a day for each state responsible inmate. It also funds a considerable portion 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 2013), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$30.06 per inmate, per day in FY 2012.

Due to the lack of data, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has concluded, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, that the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space cannot be determined. In such cases, Chapter 806 of the 2013 Acts of Assembly, requires that a minimum impact of \$50,000 be assigned to the bill.

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

Department of Corrections  
Local and regional jails

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/11/2014

**Document:** G:\LEGIS\fis-14\hb96h1.docx Dick Hall-Sizemore