

Department of Planning and Budget

2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1497H1

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

2. Patron: Farrell

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Requirements and penalties for ophthalmic prescriptions and eye examinations.

5. Summary: Defines "eye examination" and "ophthalmic prescription" and sets out requirements for each. The bill prohibits the dispensing of eyeglasses or contact lenses unless the patient provides a valid ophthalmic prescription and prohibits ophthalmologists and optometrists from requiring patients to purchase ophthalmic goods, pay additional fees, or sign a waiver or release in exchange for a copy of an ophthalmic prescription. The bill provides that a violation of its requirements is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimate: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: Anyone convicted of a Class 2 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to six months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Ultimately, the presiding judge will decide if there is to be any time served in jail; however, 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 2016), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$32.82 per inmate, per day in FY 2015.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: None.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.