

Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1874ER

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

2. Patron: Ransone

3. Committee: Passed both houses.

4. Title: Torture of animals and killing of a dog or cat; penalty.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation amends several sections of the Code of Virginia related to animal cruelty. The bill expands existing felony and provides Any person who tortures, or mutilates, etc., any dog or cat that is a companion animal whether belonging to him or another and as a direct result causes serious bodily injury to such dog or cat that is a companion animal is guilty of Class 6 felony. The bill defines “serious bodily injury” to mean bodily injury that involves substantial risk of death, extreme physical pain, protracted and obvious disfigurement, or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ, or mental faculty.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 391.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final (see Item 8 below).

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, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to jail or prison. According to the Sentencing Commission, there is not sufficient data to estimate the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space. In such cases, Chapter 2 of the 2018 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I requires that a minimum impact of \$50,000 be assigned to the bill.

Additionally, there is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposed legislation. 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 misdemeanor or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds a large 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 2018), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$33.83 per inmate, per day in FY 2017.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Corrections; Local and regional jails.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: The Conference Report provides \$50,000 (Item 391 #3c) reflecting the estimated bed space impact as a result of this legislation.