

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB666

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:** Mullin

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Vital records; definitions.

5. **Summary:** Expands the definition of "dead body," for the purposes of the administration of vital records and the prohibition against disposal or concealment, beyond the recently deceased to include human bodies or body parts in any state of decomposition.

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

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	\$50,000	General

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Because it expands the applicability of certain misdemeanor and felony offenses involving a dead body, 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 the increase in jail population as a result of this proposal. However, any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail and \$12.00 a day for each state-responsible prisoner. 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 2019), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.07 per inmate, per day in FY 2018.

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 854, 2019 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.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.