

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1024S1

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: Peake

3. Committee: Pending

4. Title: Detector canines and detector canine handlers; training and database

5. Summary: The proposed legislation requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to establish compulsory minimum training and retention standards for detector canine handlers employed by the Department of Corrections (DOC) and to develop and house a central database to collect data on the performance and effectiveness of such detector canines. The bill requires the DOC to submit comprehensive information on each canine handler and detector canine, including the number and types of calls and searches, substances searched for and whether or not detected, and the number of false positives, false negatives, true positives, and true negatives.

The bill also requires that, within a period of time established by the Criminal Justice Services Board (Board), every correctional officer employed by DOC who performs the duties of a detector canine handler must comply with the compulsory minimum training standards for detector canine handlers, and that DOC will ensure that any canines used at state correctional facilities are trained in accordance with the compulsory training standards established by the Board. The bill requires that each state correctional facility submit information to the new central database on the performance and effectiveness of detector canines as required by the Board. The bill also requires that DCJS ensure that the required training for detector canines and detector canine handlers be available throughout the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, the DOC requires all potential canine handlers to undergo a comprehensive certification program, which includes a mandatory 480-hour program for initial training as well as significant in-service level training on a monthly basis after initial certification is achieved. According to DOC, the current process established by the agency aligns with national training standards for detector canines handlers. At the moment it is not clear if DCJS would establish new minimum training standards or adopt the training standards currently used by DOC as the model to be used for all future trainings. It is also not clear if the intent of the legislation is for DCJS to deliver the training.

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duties of a detector canine handler must comply with the compulsory minimum training standards for detector canine handlers, and that DOC will ensure that any canines used at state correctional facilities are trained in accordance with the compulsory training standards established by the Board. It is not known when the training of correctional officers would commence. If DCJS is required to establish new minimum training standards and also deliver the training, then the agency believes it may need one full time employee to coordinate the creation of the standards and deliver the training at a cost of \$113,790 (including benefits and personnel costs). However, it is unknown at this time when the additional resources might be needed.

The bill also requires the development of a central database on the performance and effectiveness of such detector canines that requires DOC to submit comprehensive information on each canine handler and detector canine. Currently, DOC does not collect data pertaining to canine handlers and detector canines, as described in the bill. The DOC anticipates that collecting and reporting the required data may require additional FTE depending on how the standards developed by DCJS differ from DOC's current standards. However, until the final standards and training required by this bill are developed and approved by the Board, and the timeframe for implementing the requirements is established, the exact impact this bill will have on these agencies cannot be determined.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Department of Criminal Justice Services; the Department of Corrections.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: None