

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1590ER

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

2. Patron: Sullivan

3. Committee: Passed both houses.

4. Title: Causing a telephone to ring or other device to signal with intent to annoy; emergency communications; penalty.

5. Summary: The substitute bill modernizes the harassing phone call statute to include any communications that may ring or otherwise signal or alert. Under current law, only telephones and digital pagers are included within the ambit of the statute.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the impact of this bill cannot be determined.

The Commonwealth currently 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 varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2022), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$40.39 per inmate, per day in FY 2021.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local and regional jails, Courts, state and local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.