

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1590H1

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

2. Patron: Sullivan

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

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

5. Summary: The substitute bills amends § 18.2-429.B and provides that any person who, with or without intent to communicate but with intent to annoy, harass, hinder, or delay emergency personnel in the performance of their duties as such, causes a telephone to ring or other device to signal, which is owned or leased for the purpose of receiving communications by a public or private entity providing fire, police, or emergency medical services, and any person who knowingly permits the use of a telephone or other device under his control for such purpose. Currently, violation of this provision is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (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 misdemeanant 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.