

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** HB 2356

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** Weatherholtz

3. **Committee** Courts of Justice

4. **Title** Methamphetamines

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

Currently, Virginia's sentencing guidelines treat offenses involving cocaine differently than those involving other types of Schedule I or II drugs. For convictions involving one ounce or more but less than one-half pound of cocaine, the sentence generally recommended for Schedule I or II drugs is increased by three years. The recommendation is increased by five years if the amount of cocaine is one-half pound or more. Finally, offenders convicted of distributing an ounce or more of cocaine are not eligible for consideration for alternative sanctions under a risk assessment program.

The proposed legislation would require that sentencing guideline recommendations applicable to cocaine also be made applicable to convictions involving methamphetamines.

6. **Fiscal Impact:** See Item No. 8.

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** None.

8. **Fiscal implications:**

Pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission estimates a fiscal impact of \$221,550 (the highest annual cost over the next six years). The amount is based on the projection that the legislation will result in 10 additional inmates being incarcerated in prison.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Corrections

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** None.

11. **Other comments:** Identical to SB 1178.

Date: 01/31/01 / rwh

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety