

Department of Planning and Budget

2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1856

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Lingamfelter

3. Committee: Senate Court of Justice

4. Title: Definition of firearms

5. Summary/Purpose:

Current statutes dealing with the use of firearms define firearms as devices or weapons which expel projectiles by means of an explosion. The definitions sometimes included devices which are air or gas -operated or use pneumatic pressure to expel projectiles. The proposed bill would narrow the definition of firearm to apply solely to devices which use "an explosion of a combustible material" to expel single or multiple projectiles. It would delete references to any devices which use air or gas pressure to expel projectiles and, in one instance, it would explicitly exclude from the definition of firearm any weapon in which "ammunition may be discharged by pneumatic pressure."

6. Fiscal Impact: See Item No. 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: None.

8. Fiscal implications:

By narrowing the definition of firearm, certain uses of which are subject to prosecution, the proposed bill may result in fewer persons being incarcerated in local jails or state prisons. However, there is insufficient information upon which to base a reliable estimate of the extent of such reduction.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Local jails, Department of Corrections

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 02/19/03/rwh

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cc: Secretary of Public Safety