

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2007 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number** HB2900

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed

**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron**        Spruill

**3. Committee** Pending

**4. Title**            Firearms; carrying at Capitol Square.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** Prohibits the possession of firearms on Capitol Square. Violation of the section is a Class 1 misdemeanor. There is an exception for law-enforcement officers and licensed security guards. For purposes of this section, "Capitol Square" means the grounds in that area of the City of Richmond bounded by Bank, Governor, Broad, and Ninth Streets, and the interior of the State Capitol, the General Assembly Building, and the Patrick Henry Building.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** PRELIMINARY; See item 8.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to jail.

There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (FY 2005), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$28.35 per inmate, per day in FY 2005.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Local and regional jails, Compensation Board, state and local law enforcement agencies.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** Yes. Recommend on line 14, eliminating "shall carry" and replace with "carries."

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 01/15/07 / ltc

**Document:** DPB C:\2007FIS\posted\hb2900.doc

cc: Secretary of Public Safety  
Secretary of Administration