

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2242

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Barlow

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources

4. Title: Accident reports by watercraft passengers

5. Summary: The bill states that in any case in which the operator of a vessel fails to give the notice or make the report of an accident as required by § 29.1-739, every person 16 years of age or older in the vessel with the operator at the time of any accident in which a person is injured or killed, who has knowledge of the accident, shall have a duty to ensure that a report is made within 24 hours from the time of the accident to a law enforcement officer of the Commonwealth, conservation police officer, or Marine Resources Commission inspector. Any person who has such a duty and fails to file the report as required herein is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. 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. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from the proposal. Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth pays the localities \$8 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, such as 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 (November, 2008), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$28.77 per inmate, per day in FY 2007.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Marine Resources Commission, law enforcement agencies, judicial system.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/19/2009 dpbkbs

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources