

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1265

House of Origin	<u> X </u>	Introduced	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u> </u>	In Committee	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Vogel

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Unattended children in a motor vehicle.

5. Summary: Provides that any driver or operator of a motor vehicle who leaves an unattended child in a motor vehicle is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill defines “unattended child” as a child under six years of age who has been left in a motor vehicle by the driver or operator of the vehicle when the driver or operator is unable to continuously observe the child, unless a person 12 years of age or older is physically present in the motor vehicle with the child.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: Although insufficient data exists to determine the fiscal impact due to the legislation at this time, the legislation could result in an increase in the jail population since a Class 1 misdemeanor can result in a sentence of up to 12 months in jail (and \$2,500 fine). 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 FY2007 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 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: Local and regional jails, State Compensation Board, law enforcement agencies statewide.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/20/2009 dpb/jgc

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cc: State Compensation Board