

Department of Planning and Budget

2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 2195

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: Hope, Patrick A.

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Devocalization of cats and dogs; penalty

5. Summary: Requires veterinarians to keep records of devocalization procedures, and provides that any person, including a licensed veterinarian, who performs a surgical devocalization on a cat or dog when such procedure is not necessary to treat or relieve an illness, disease, or injury or to correct a congenital abnormality that is causing or may cause the animal physical pain or harm, is guilty of a Class 6 felony.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, item 380. (see item 8)

7. Fiscal Impact Cannot Be Determined (see item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: For someone convicted of a Class 6 felony, a judge has the option of sentencing him to up to one year in jail, or 1 to 5 years in prison. Therefore, this proposal could result in an increase in the number of persons sentenced to jail or prison.

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 presently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanor or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail and \$12.00 a day for each state responsible inmate. It also funds a considerable portion 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 (November 2010), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$33.01 per inmate, per day in FY 2009.

Due to the lack of data, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has concluded, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, that the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space cannot be determined. In such cases, Chapter 874 of the 2010 Acts of Assembly requires that a minimum impact of \$50,000 be assigned to the bill.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

State Compensation Board
Department of Corrections
Regional Jails

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 1/19/11

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