



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission

House Bill No. 882

(Patron – Sickles)

LD #: 12102638

Date: 12/19/2011

Topic: Financial exploitation of elderly or vulnerable; hiring prohibition

Fiscal Impact Summary:

- **State Adult Correctional Facilities:**
\$50,000 *
- **Local Adult Correctional Facilities:**
Cannot be determined
- **Adult Community Corrections Programs:**
Cannot be determined

- **Juvenile Correctional Centers:**
None (\$0)
- **Juvenile Detention Facilities:**
None (\$0)

* The estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 890 of the 2011 Acts of Assembly requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Summary of Proposed Legislation:

This proposal would add § 18.2-178.1, to the *Code of Virginia*, to make financial exploitation of people age 65 or older, or adults who are unable to manage finances and property because of physical or mental illness or disability, a Class 5 felony. Exploitation by a caretaker, or a person with a fiduciary relationship to the victim, would be a Class 3 felony.

Further, the proposal would prohibit hiring persons convicted of this proposed financial exploitation statute to work in:

- licensed nursing homes (§ 32.1-126.01);
- licensed home care organizations (§ 32.1-162.9:1); or
- facilities operated by the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (§ 37.2-314).

Analysis:

The proposal includes many existing felony property crimes, including: grand larceny (§ 18.2-95), obtaining money or property by false pretenses (§ 18.2-178), forging and uttering (§ 18.2-172), and identity theft (§ 18.2-186.3).

According to calendar year (CY) 2010 Incident-Based Reporting (IBR) crime data provided by the Virginia Department of State Police, and compiled by the Department of Criminal Justice Services, there were 79,276 incidents resulting in a property loss of \$200 or more, based on the value of the single most costly item that was lost. Of these incidents, 5,216 (6.6%) involved victims aged 65 or older. Comparable data for victims who would meet the definition of a vulnerable adult are not available.

Felony conviction data for property crimes rarely contain information regarding the age of the victim. The table below contains sentencing information for the crimes that may be affected by the proposal, irrespective of victim age.

Historical Sentencing Information for Specified Crimes (All Cases/Victims)

	Number of Cases	% No Incarceration	% Local Responsible	% State Responsible	Median State Responsible Sentence
Grand larceny (§ 18.2-95) and other felonies punished as grand larceny	7,438	39%	35%	26%	2.0 yrs.
False pretenses (§ 18.2-178)	959	39%	30%	31%	1.7 yrs.
Forging and uttering (§ 18.2-172)	1,054	40%	33%	27%	1.5 yrs.
Identity theft - financial loss more than \$200 (§ 18.2-186.3)	86	39%	34%	27%	1.3 yrs.

Note: Analysis based on cases in which the crime was the primary (or most serious) offense at time of sentencing.
Data Source: FY2010 and FY2011 Sentencing Guidelines data

Impact of Proposed Legislation:

State adult correctional facilities. The proposed legislation creates new felony offenses associated with certain property crimes when the victim is an elderly or vulnerable adult. The proposal also provides for enhanced penalties when the offender is a caregiver or a person in a position of trust. The proposed legislation may increase the future state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. However, the databases available to the Commission do not contain sufficient detail to estimate the number of convictions that may be affected by the proposal. Therefore, the magnitude of the impact cannot be quantified.

Local adult correctional facilities. The proposal could also affect the local-responsible (jail) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. However, the magnitude of the impact cannot be determined.

Adult community corrections programs. The net impact of the proposal on community corrections resources cannot be determined.

Virginia's sentencing guidelines. Because the proposal defines new felony offenses, convictions under the proposed § 18.2-178.1 would not be covered by the sentencing guidelines as the primary, or most serious, offense. Such a conviction, however, could augment the guidelines recommendation if the most serious offense at sentencing is covered by the guidelines. No adjustment to the guidelines is necessary under the proposal.

Juvenile correctional centers. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) the proposal is not expected to increase juvenile correctional center (JCC) bed space needs.

Juvenile detention facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the proposal is not expected to increase the bed space needs of juvenile detention facilities.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 890 of the 2011

Acts of Assembly requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation is \$0 for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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