

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB834

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: Keam

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Harassment by computer; bullying.

5. Summary: Provides that a person who, with the intent to coerce, intimidate, or harass another, uses a computer or computer network to engage in bullying is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill also provides that for purposes of the crime of harassment by computer, a computer includes an electronic communication device.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: Although insufficient data exists to determine the fiscal impact due to this proposal, the proposed legislation could result in an increase in the jail population since Class 1 misdemeanor outcomes result in sentences of up to 12 months in jail (and a fine up to \$2,500). Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth presently pays the localities \$4.00 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 FY2012 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 2013), the estimated total state support for local and regional jails averaged \$30.06 per state inmate, per day in FY 2012.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Law enforcement agencies statewide, local and regional jails, State Compensation Board.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 24, 2014

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