

Department of Planning and Budget 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 867

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Rush

3. Committee: Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title: Notification of tertiary care for prisoner

5. Summary:

The proposed legislation would require the Board of Corrections to promulgate regulations requiring state and local correctional officials to notify a prisoner's family or emergency contact person whenever that prisoner is moved to tertiary care, either within or without the assigned jail or prison.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. Item 385

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

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	\$49,995	General
2016	\$49,995	General
2017	\$49,995	General
2018	\$49,995	General
2019	\$49,995	General
2020	\$49,995	General

8. Fiscal Implications:

According to the Department of Corrections (DOC), tertiary care is that "rendered at an academic medical center", such as the VCU Medical Center or the University of Virginia Medical Center.

The proposed legislation would result in DOC having to increase the frequency with which it notified family members of inmates or their designated emergency contact persons that a prisoner had been moved to the VCU Medical Center or the University of Virginia

Medical Center for treatment. Currently, the department makes such notifications only in cases of a life-threatening illness. Under the proposed legislation, the department would have to make those notifications whenever a prisoner was taken to one of those medical facilities. In FY 2012, there were 797 inpatient admissions of DOC inmates to VCU Medical Center and 6,999 outpatient visits. For the UVa Hospital, there were 118 inpatient admissions of prisoners and 681 outpatient visits. (Some prisoners had multiple inpatient admissions or outpatient visits.) It is not clear in the bill if the notifications would have to be made for outpatient treatment as well as for inpatient treatment. Under the proposed legislation, DOC would be required to notify a prisoner's family member or designated emergency contact on each of those occasions, not just in situations involving a life-threatening illness, as is now the policy. To implement the legislation it would require at least one full-time staff member.

The proposed legislation would impose the same requirement on local and regional jails. It is not known the extent to which sheriffs or regional jail superintendents notify family members or designated emergency contact when a prisoner is taken to a hospital. Nor is data available indicating how many prisoners from jails are taken to hospitals for medical care annually.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Corrections
Local and regional jails

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/20/2014

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