

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2240

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|------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 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: Ransone

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Introduction, stocking, and release of blue catfish; penalty.

5. Summary: This bill makes it unlawful for any person to introduce into, stock in, or release into waters of the Commonwealth the blue catfish; however, the blue catfish may be released into the same water body in which it was caught. A violation of the provisions of the bill is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not result in a fiscal impact to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. The department does not foresee an increase in conservation police officer manpower to enforce the provisions of this bill.

The bill specifies that a violation of the provisions of the bill will result in a Class 2 misdemeanor. As such, the proposed legislation could result in an increase in the jail population since Class 2 misdemeanor outcomes result in sentences of up to 6 months in jail (and a fine up to \$1,000). 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 a significant 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 FY 2013 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 2014), the estimated total state support for local and regional jails averaged \$30.54 per state inmate, per day in FY 2013.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Game and Inland Fisheries; Department of Corrections; local courts and jails.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.