

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 798

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

2. Patron: Locke

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Purchase of handguns; limitation on handgun purchases; penalty.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation prohibits individuals who are not licensed firearms dealers from purchasing more than one handgun in a 30-day period and establishes such an offense as a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill exempts from this provision (i) law-enforcement agencies and officers, (ii) state and local correctional facilities, (iii) licensed private security companies, (iv) persons who hold a valid Virginia concealed handgun permit, (v) persons whose handgun has been lost or stolen or who are trading in a handgun, (vi) purchases of handguns in a private sale, and (vii) purchases of antique firearms.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

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 may result in sentences of up to 12 months in jail (and a fine up to \$2,500). Ultimately, the presiding judge will decide if there is to be any time served in jail; however, 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 FY2013 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. The legislation has no material fiscal operational impact on Virginia State Police.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Compensation Board, Department of State Police, regional and local jails.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: No.

Date: 1/26/2015-SB798.docx (LAJ)