



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission

Senate Bill No. 987 **(Patron – Lucas)**

LD#: 18105546

Date: 1/23/2018

Topic: Paramilitary activity

Fiscal Impact Summary:

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

- **Juvenile Direct Care:**
Cannot be determined*
- **Juvenile Detention Facilities:**
Cannot be determined*

*Provided by the Department of Juvenile Justice

* The estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 836 of the 2017 Acts of Assembly requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Summary of Proposed Legislation:

The proposal expands § 18.2-433.2 of the *Code of Virginia*, relating to prohibited paramilitary activity. Under the proposal, it would be a Class 5 felony to assemble with the intent to intimidate a person or group by drilling, parading, or marching with any firearm, any explosive or incendiary device, or any components or combination thereof.

Analysis:

Existing databases do not provide sufficient detail to identify the number of new convictions likely to result from enactment of the proposal. However, affected offenders may be sentenced similarly to those who are currently convicted under the existing provisions.

According to Circuit Court Case Management (CMS) data for fiscal year (FY) 2012 through FY2017, there was one conviction under § 18.2-433.2. The violation of § 18.2-433.2 was not the primary or the most serious offense in the event. Although the offender received an effective state-responsible (prison) sentence, the sentence for the paramilitary activity conviction was five-years imposed with all of the time suspended.

Impact of Proposed Legislation:

State adult correctional facilities. By expanding the applicability of an existing felony, the proposal may increase the future state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. However,

existing databases do not provide sufficient detail to estimate the number of new felony convictions likely to result from enactment of the proposal. Therefore, the magnitude of the impact on prison beds cannot be quantified.

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

Adult community corrections programs. Because the proposal could result in felony convictions and subsequent supervision requirements for an additional number of offenders, the proposal may increase the need for adult community corrections resources. Since the number of cases that may be affected cannot be determined, the potential impact on community corrections resources cannot be quantified.

Virginia's sentencing guidelines. Felony convictions under § 18.2-433.2 are not covered by the sentencing guidelines as primary offenses. A conviction under these provisions, however, could augment the guidelines recommendation if the most serious offense at sentencing is covered by the guidelines. No adjustment to the guidelines would be necessary under the proposal.

Juvenile direct care. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice, the impact of the proposal on direct care (juvenile correctional center or alternative commitment placement) bed space needs cannot be determined.

Juvenile detention facilities. The Department of Juvenile Justice reports that the proposal's impact on the bed space needs of juvenile detention facilities cannot be determined.

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 836 of the 2017 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 cannot be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

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