

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB99

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: Marsden

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Release of hunting dogs on a highway.

5. Summary: This bill provides that any person who intentionally releases five or more hunting dogs on or within 15 feet of a highway is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor and a second or subsequent violation within three years of the first violation is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, please see item 8.

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 bill establishes a new provision that, if violated, is punishable by a Class 1 misdemeanor. Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail. There is not enough information available to reliably estimate how many additional inmates in jail could result from this proposal. 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 large 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 most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2017), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.58 per inmate, per day in FY 2016.

In addition, this bill establishes a new provision that, if violated, is punishable by a Class 3 misdemeanor. Such offenses carry the possibility of fines. The anticipated revenue is indeterminate as the number of violators cannot be estimated. Any revenue from such fines is deposited to the state Literary Fund.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.