Department of Planning and Budget
2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2499

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

2. **Patron:** Watts

3. **Committee:** Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. **Title:** DOC; policies to improve exchange of offender medical information.

5. **Summary:** Directs the Department of Corrections to develop policies to improve the exchange of medical and mental health information and records of persons committed to a state correctional facility, including policies to improve access to electronic health records and electronic exchange of information and records for the provision of telemedicine and telepsychiatry. The Department is also required to report on its progress in implementing the provisions of the bill to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Joint Subcommittee to Study Mental Health Services in the Commonwealth in the 21st Century by October 1, 2019.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: No

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation requires DOC to develop policies to improve the exchange of medical and mental health information and records of persons committed to a state correctional facility, including policies to improve access to electronic health records and electronic exchange of information and records for the provision of telemedicine and telepsychiatry. The mandate to develop policies to improve the exchange of medical and mental health information and records is not expected to have a fiscal impact on DOC. Currently, DOC provides telemedicine and telepsychiatry; however, the agency has not implemented an electronic health records system.

   Item 391 of the Governor's Introduced Budget (HB 1700-SB 1100) provides $6.6 million in fiscal year 2020 for the Department of Corrections (DOC) to begin implementing an electronic health records (EHR) system in all six women's facilities. It is expected that as part of their implementation, the DOC will develop policies related to the exchange of medical and mental health information and records using electronic health records system for which funding is provided in the introduced budget. In total, DOC estimates that it will require an additional $15 million by FY2024 to fully implement and maintain the EHR system in the women's facilities. The Department also estimates that it will cost an additional $32.5 million to implement an EHR system in men's facilities. Developing the policies required by this bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on agency operations.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Corrections

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** None

11. **Other Comments:** None