



Fiscal Impact Statement for Proposed Legislation

Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission

Senate Bill No. 1151

(Patron – DeSteph)

LD #: 19104418

Date: 1/11/2019

Topic: Aggravated sexual battery by false representation or subterfuge

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 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2018, Special Session I, requires the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000.

Summary of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed legislation amends §§ 18.2-67.3 (aggravated sexual battery) and 18.2-67.4 (sexual battery). Under the proposal, any person who, intentionally and without the consent of the complaining witness, sexually abuses another person by false representation or subterfuge that is part of a massage, medical procedure, or physical therapy is guilty of aggravated sexual battery if such abuse is alleged by (i) more than one complaining witness within a two-year period or (ii) one complaining witness on more than one occasion. Convictions under § 18.2-67.3 are punishable by a term of imprisonment of not less than one nor more than 20 years and by a fine of not more than \$100,000. The proposal also eliminates the provision under § 18.2-67.4 for sexual battery accomplished by ruse.

Analysis:

According to FY2017 and FY2018 Sentencing Guidelines (SG) data, a conviction for aggravated sexual battery under § 18.2-67.3 was the primary (or most serious) offense in 311 sentencing events. A large majority of the offenders (84.3%) were sentenced to a state-responsible (prison) term with a median sentence of five years. Another 9.3% of the offenders received a local-responsible (jail) term with a median sentence length of six months. The remaining 6.4% of offenders did not receive an active term of incarceration to serve after sentencing.

Data are insufficient to determine the number of incidents involving acts achieved by means of false representation or subterfuge, as described above, that are not covered by the current provisions.

Impact of Proposed Legislation:

State adult correctional facilities. The proposal expands the applicability of an existing felony, which is punishable by terms of imprisonment. In this way, the proposal could increase the state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. The number of additional felony convictions that may result from the proposal, and the net effect on sentences for those offenders, cannot be estimated; therefore, the magnitude of the impact cannot be determined.

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

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

Virginia's sentencing guidelines. Convictions under § 18.2-67.3 are covered by the sentencing 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 2 of the Acts of Assembly of 2018, Special Session I, 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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