

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1573

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Bell

3. Committee: Judiciary

4. Title: Rabid animals.

5. Summary: Raises from a Class 4 misdemeanor to a Class 1 misdemeanor the punishment for an owner of a rabid dog or cat who permits the dog or cat to stray from his premises and such dog or cat (i) bites, attacks, or inflicts injury on a companion animal that is a dog or cat; (ii) kills a companion animal that is a dog or cat; or (iii) bites, attacks, or inflicts injury on a person.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

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 the increase in jail population as a result of this bill. However, any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently 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 2019), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$34.07 per inmate, per day in FY 2018.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; courts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.