

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB337

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

2. Patron: Stuart

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Animal Cruelty Conviction List established.

5. Summary: Provides that the Superintendent of State Police shall establish, organize, and maintain within the Department of State Police (VSP), by January 1, 2023, a computerized Animal Cruelty Conviction List as a database of information regarding persons convicted on or after July 1, 2020, of a felony violation of the prohibition against: (i) cruelty to animals pursuant to § 3.2-6570; (ii) animal fighting pursuant to § 3.2-6571; (iii) maiming, killing, or poisoning an animal pursuant to § 18.2-144; or (iv) killing or injuring a police animal pursuant to § 18.2-144.1. Information on the list shall include the name of the offender at the time of conviction, the offense for which the offender was convicted, the conviction date, and the jurisdiction of conviction. The list shall be publicly accessible on VSP's website. Additionally, the bill provides that any person convicted of an offense for which an entry in the database is required shall pay a fee upon conviction in the amount of \$50 per conviction that shall be used by VSP to pay for the maintenance of the list. VSP shall automatically purge from the list a person's name and information 15 years after its listing if he has no additional felony conviction of an offense listed in this section, according to the provisions of the bill.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See below.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of State Police (VSP), this legislation will require \$80,256 in one-time costs to design and implement the program using the Computerized Criminal History (CCH) system. The CCH is a system that tracks all criminal cases and dispositions, and keeps the official record for the criminal data in the Commonwealth.

This bill would allow VSP to begin collecting a fee of \$50 for each relevant conviction after July 1, 2020. Revenue generated from these fees shall be used by VSP to fund the maintenance of the database, according to the provisions of this bill. The bill requires that the database be operational by January 1, 2023. It is possible that VSP could fund the entire \$80,256 to design and implement the program with fees collected. However, it is unknown how many people would be convicted under the relevant code sections between July 1, 2020 and when VSP would need to pay these costs to a vendor. It is indeterminate at this time if

the fees generated as a result of this proposal would be sufficient to cover the one-time cost to implement the program, or if additional funding would be needed.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police, Courts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.