

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB437

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: Surovell

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Bicyclists and other vulnerable road users; penalty.

5. Summary: Provides that a person who operates a motor vehicle in a careless or distracted manner and is the proximate cause of serious physical injury to a vulnerable road user, defined in the bill as a pedestrian or a person operating a bicycle, electric wheelchair, electric bicycle, wheelchair, skateboard, skates, motorized skateboard or scooter, or animal-drawn vehicle or riding an animal, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill also prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle from crossing into a bicycle lane to pass or attempt to pass another vehicle, except in certain circumstances.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The implementation of this bill could result in more individuals being convicted of 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 the increase in jail population as a result of this proposal. 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.

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is also subject to a fine of up to \$2,500. All revenue collected from such fines is deposited into the Literary Fund. However, it is not possible to estimate either the number of convictions that may result or the amount of each fine that may be assessed under this legislation. Therefore, the fiscal impact of this bill cannot be determined.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Law enforcement agencies, local and regional jails

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None