

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2298

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Ware

3. Committee: Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Carrying concealed weapons; exceptions; penalty.

5. Summary: Removes switchblade knives from the list of concealed weapons the carrying of which is prohibited in public.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8).

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, violation of § 18.2-308 (Carrying concealed weapons; exceptions; penalty) results in a Class 1 misdemeanor. A second violation of this section or a conviction under this section subsequent to any conviction under any substantially similar ordinance of any county, city, or town shall be punishable as a Class 6 felony, and a third or subsequent such violation shall be punishable as a Class 5 felony.

This proposal removes switchblade knives from the list of prohibited weapons punishable by the Class 1 misdemeanor. As such, there is the potential for a reduction in the number of Class 1 misdemeanors issued. However, there is not enough information available to reliably estimate the decrease in jail population as a result of this proposal. However, any decrease in jail population will decrease 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 varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2022), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$40.39 per inmate, per day in FY 2021.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.