

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2456

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Williams Graves

3. Committee: Committee on Courts of Justice

4. Title: Weapons; possession or transportation, facility that provides mental health services.

5. Summary: This bill prohibits any person from possessing or transporting, any (i) gun or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocketknife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency room or other facility rendering emergency medical care. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and provides certain exceptions to the prohibition.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

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

8. Fiscal Implications: Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both.

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 misdemeanor 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.

According to the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, this bill is not expected to have a fiscal impact on agency operations.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local and regional jails, courts, Commonwealth Attorneys, Public Defenders offices, law enforcement agencies, Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None