

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2483

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Kory

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Elephants; pain-inflicting training tools prohibited; penalty.

5. Summary: Adds elephants to the definition of “dangerous captive animal.” The bill also prohibits (i) the use of a bullhook, ankus, baseball bat, axe handle, pitchfork, or similar instrument or a tool designed to inflict pain for the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of an elephant and (ii) poking an elephant with such an instrument or tool for the purpose of training or controlling the behavior of the elephant. A violation is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact this bill may have on the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services can be absorbed within existing resources.

Anyone convicted of a Class 2 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to six months in jail and a fine of not more than \$1,000, 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 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 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: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, courts, jails, law enforcement agencies

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None