

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB327S1

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| House of Origin | <input type="checkbox"/> Introduced | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed |
| Second House | <input type="checkbox"/> In Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Substitute | <input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled |

2. Patron: Salim

3. Committee: Court of Justice

4. Title: Purchase of firearms; age requirement; penalty.

5. Summary: This bill prohibits any person under 21 years of age from purchasing a firearm, with exceptions for the purchase of a rifle or shotgun by a law-enforcement officer, correctional officer, jail officer, member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Virginia National Guard, or the National Guard of any other state. Accordingly, the bill prohibits a licensed dealer from selling, renting, trading, or transferring from his inventory a firearm to any person under 21 years of age, with the same exceptions. A violation of either prohibition is a Class 6 felony. The bill also expands the definition of "assault firearm" as the term applies to criminal history record information checks.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 390 (DOC) and Item 415 (VSP).

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of State Police (VSP), which oversees the Firearms Transaction Program, anticipates a fiscal impact as a result of the legislation. This bill would require VSP to procure new SP-65 Firearms Purchase Forms, at a cost of \$9,910.32, which VSP believes the agency can absorb. However, the agency believes it would need additional resources to update the agency's VCheck2 system to include the new age requirement and certain exceptions outlined in the bill. The agency estimates a one-time cost of \$111,200 in general fund. Because it expands the potential applicability of existing felony offenses and creates a new felony offense, the proposal may increase the future state-responsible (prison) bed space needs of the Commonwealth. However, existing databases do not provide sufficient detail to estimate the number of new felony convictions likely to result from enactment of the proposal. Therefore, the magnitude of the impact on prison bed space needs cannot be quantified. Due to the lack of data, the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission has concluded, pursuant to §30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, that the impact of the proposed legislation on state-responsible (prison) bed space cannot be determined. In such cases, Chapter 1, 2023 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, requires that a minimum impact of \$50,000 be assigned to the bill.

Similarly, the proposal may increase local-responsible (jail) bed space needs; however, the magnitude of the impact cannot be determined. 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 \$5.00 a day for each misdemeanor or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail and \$15.00 a day for each state-responsible prisoner. It also funds a considerable 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 2023), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$45.76 per inmate, per day in FY 2022.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts, Department of State Police, local law enforcement agencies, Department of corrections, Commonwealth's Attorneys, Office of Public Defenders, and local and regional jails.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.