

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1025

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Wilt

3. **Committee:** Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. **Title:** Claiming a deer, bear, turkey, or elk struck by motor vehicle.

5. **Summary:** Allows any deer, bear, turkey, or elk that appears to have been killed in a collision with a motor vehicle to be claimed by and awarded to any person. Current law allows a deer or bear to only be claimed by and awarded to the driver of a motor vehicle who collides with such animal.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that any fiscal impact on the Department of Wildlife Resources as a result of this bill can be absorbed within existing resources.

An expansion on allowances in § 29.1-539, Code of Virginia, may result in an indeterminate reduction in violations, which are classified as Class 2 misdemeanors. 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. Proceeds of all fines and penalties collected for offenses committed against the Commonwealth are paid into the state treasury to the credit of the Literary Fund.

There is not enough information available to reliably estimate the increase 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 localities \$5.00 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 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:** Department of Wildlife Resources; local and regional jails; courts; localities.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. Other Comments: None.