

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2023 General Assembly Session | 01/09/23

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

HB 1427: Firearms, etc.; control of possession by locality. (Patron: Delegate Dave A. LaRock)

Bill Summary: Control of firearms by localities. Removes a locality's authority to prohibit the possession or carrying of firearms, ammunition, or components or any combination thereof in (i) any public park owned or operated by the locality; (ii) any recreation or community center facility operated by the locality; or (iii) any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

Local Fiscal Impact: **Net Additional Expenditure:** X **Net Reduction of Revenues:** X

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 5 Cities, 11 Counties, 5 Towns, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$0.35 million over the biennium. Most localities reported the bill would have no immediate fiscal impact.

Localities identified bill's fiscal impact as the increase in expenditures needed to secure the public spaces affected by the bill. A few localities noted that they would need additional staffing to maintain security, and a few others noted minor fiscal impacts from sign changes. One locality noted a fiscal impact due to a loss in rental revenue from the parks (which may see lower rental demand due to the provisions of the bill).

Several localities noted a potential indeterminant cost from the increased legal liability the bill presented. These localities noted increases in insurance costs in order to protect themselves from potential legal ramifications from the bill.

Net Reduction in Revenues: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Juris	Real Estate Revenue Reduction		Personal Property Revenue Reduction		Sales Tax Revenue Reduction	
		FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24
City of Danville	City						
City of Harrisonburg	City						
City of Manassas	City						
City of Richmond	City						
City of Winchester	City						
Amherst County	County						
Augusta County	County						
Chesterfield County	County						
Mecklenburg County	County						
Montgomery County	County						
Orange County	County						
Prince George County	County						
Rappahannock County	County						
Roanoke County	County						
Rockingham County	County						
Wise County	County						
Northern Neck PDC	Other						
Town of Chincoteague	Town						
Town of Christiansburg	Town						
Town of Leesburg	Town						
Town of Luray	Town						
Town of Marion	Town						

Locality	Revenue Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Danville	
City of Harrisonburg	
City of Manassas	
City of Richmond	
City of Winchester	
Amherst County	
Augusta County	Festival sponsor may not be interested in using local park for annual event if firearms can't be prohibited. This would be a loss of revenue for the County in camping fees, rentals, etc.
Chesterfield County	Legislation will have no fiscal impact on the county.
Mecklenburg County	
Montgomery County	
Orange County	
Prince George County	This legislation will have no appreciable impact on revenues.
Rappahannock County	
Roanoke County	
Rockingham County	
Wise County	
Northern Neck PDC	Less enforcement will have no fiscal impact.
Town of Chincoteague	
Town of Christiansburg	I do not believe these will impact revenue.
Town of Leesburg	We don't see a way to estimate any material cost to this unless one has an active shooter incident. It is more a risk management and safety issue. There might be increased insurance costs down the road, but that is impossible to estimate now.
Town of Luray	
Town of Marion	

*Penny value is defined as the amount a locality would need to raise their real estate tax rate to cover the fiscal impacts of the bill, assuming no other changes to revenues or expenditures. It is represented in terms of dollars (e.g., 0.01 is a one cent increase in the real estate tax rate, etc.).

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Nonrecurring Expense - Operating		Nonrecurring Expense - Capital		Nonrecurring Expense - Other		Penny Value of Increase on Real Estate Rate*	Total Increase in Expenses (Biennium Total)
	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24		
City of Danville							0	\$0
City of Harrisonburg								\$0
City of Manassas								\$0
City of Richmond	\$15,000						0.01	\$3,475,000
City of Winchester								\$0
Amherst County								\$0
Augusta County	\$5,000						0	\$5,000
Chesterfield County								\$0
Mecklenburg County								\$0
Montgomery County								\$0
Orange County								\$0
Prince George County								\$0
Rappahannock County								\$0
Roanoke County								\$0
Rockingham County								\$0
Wise County								\$0
Northern Neck PDC								\$0
Town of Chincoteague								\$0
Town of Christiansburg								\$0
Town of Leesburg								\$0
Town of Luray								\$0
Town of Marion								\$0

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Danville	These changes would potentially hinder the City's ability to effectively protect members of the public especially during potential gatherings which could pose a risk or a liability. Impacts on cost would be dependent on our insurers/event insurers and would also potentially require additional/overtime staffing hours. Both of these costs are difficult to estimate and a penny value cannot be provided.
City of Harrisonburg	
City of Manassas	
City of Richmond	The passage of the legislation will likely result in an increase of calls for service. The locality would need to increase patrol officers to meet the increased demand. The current average cost of an officer to include benefits is \$123,000 annually. For an increase of ten officers the average estimated cost is \$1,230,000. The average cost of a police vehicle is \$50,000. The cost of ten vehicles is \$500,000. At a minimum an increase of ten officers is \$1,730,000. The one-time \$15,000 expenditure is for sign removal.
City of Winchester	
Amherst County	
Augusta County	Some costs in having to re-sign some properties. Don't necessarily know or think it would lead to requesting more law enforcement presence at the parks, even for larger uses but unsure.
Chesterfield County	Legislation will have no fiscal impact on the county.
Mecklenburg County	
Montgomery County	
Orange County	
Prince George County	The Chief of Police stated this would have no appreciable impact on expenditures or man hours.
Rappahannock County	
Roanoke County	
Rockingham County	
Wise County	
Northern Neck PDC	Less enforcement allowable will not have any fiscal impact.
Town of Chincoteague	
Town of Christiansburg	i do not believe this would impact costs.
Town of Leesburg	We don't see a way to estimate any material cost to this unless one has an active shooter incident. It is more a risk management and safety issue. There might be increased insurance costs down the road, but that is impossible to estimate now.
Town of Luray	

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Town of Marion	

* Penny value is defined as the amount a locality would need to raise their real estate tax rate to cover the fiscal impacts of the bill, assuming no other changes to revenues or expenditures. It is represented in terms of dollars (e.g., 0.01 is a one cent increase in the real estate tax rate, etc.).