

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1542S1

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

2. **Patron:** Mundon King

3. **Committee:** Courts of Justice

4. **Title:** Child abuse and neglect; mandatory reporters; statute of limitations; penalties.

5. **Summary:** The bill amends § 63.2-1509, relating to reporting requirements for certain injuries to children, and makes it Class 1 misdemeanor for anyone who knowingly and intentionally fails to make a report related to attempted acts of rape and aggravated sexual battery.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Current law enforces the Class 1 misdemeanor penalty for acts of rape, sodomy, or object sexual penetration. 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 \$5.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local-responsible prisoner held in a jail. 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.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact on the operation of state agencies as a result of the bill.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Courts, local and regional jails, Commonwealth's Attorneys, Public Defenders.

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.