

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1443H2

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

2. Patron: Davis

3. Committee: Passed both Houses

4. Title: Trial by jury; contact with jurors after trial prohibited; penalty.

5. Summary: The bill makes it a Class 1 misdemeanor for a defendant to knowingly and intentionally contact, with the intent to harass or intimidate, a juror regarding such juror's service as a juror after a jury trial.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final (see Item 8 below).

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation creates a Class 1 misdemeanor. 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 localities \$5.00 a day for each misdemeanor 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: Local and regional jails, Courts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.