

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1476

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

2. **Patron:** Keys-Gamarra

3. **Committee:** Health and Human Services

4. **Title:** Child abuse; mandatory reporters.

5. **Summary:** Adds to the list of persons who are required to report suspected child abuse or neglect employees of the Department of Labor and Industry whose duties include ensuring compliance with child labor laws.

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

7. **Minimal fiscal impact.**

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation would add employees of the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) whose duties include ensuring compliance with child labor laws to the list of persons required to report suspected child abuse or neglect. According to the Department of Social Services (DSS), there may be a need to revise training and materials to reflect this bill's provisions. Additionally, an increase in mandated reporters could lead to an increase in the number of abuse or neglect incidents reported, which could require additional child protective services (CPS) responses. However, the number of potential new mandated reporters is expected to be low. Therefore, the fiscal impact on DSS and local departments of social services is assumed to be minimal and can be absorbed.

Furthermore, any fiscal impact to the Department of Labor and Industry is not available at this time. Should additional information become available, this statement will be updated accordingly.

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: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, Department of Labor and Industry, jails in the Commonwealth

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.