

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB23

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

2. **Patron:** Laufer

3. **Committee:** Public Safety

4. **Title:** Weapons; possession or transportation into facility that provides mental health services, etc.

5. **Summary:** The bill establishes a Class 1 misdemeanor violation for any person to possess in or transport into any facility that provides mental health services or developmental services in the Commonwealth, including a hospital or an emergency department or other facility rendering emergency medical care, any (i) firearm or other weapon designed or intended to propel a missile or projectile of any kind; (ii) knife, except a pocket knife having a folding metal blade of less than three inches; or (iii) other dangerous weapon, including explosives and stun weapons. The bill provides that any such firearm, knife, explosive, or weapon is subject to seizure by a law-enforcement officer and provides certain exceptions to the prohibition.

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

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8. below.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** 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 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.

There is no anticipated fiscal impact on the operations of the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice, the Department of State Police, or the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Local and regional jails, courts, Commonwealth Attorneys, Public Defenders offices, and law enforcement agencies.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.