



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

FISCAL NOTE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1496

PRINTERS NO. 3918

PRIME SPONSOR: Stephens

COST / (SAVINGS)

FUND	FY 2016/17	FY 2017/18
General Fund	See "Fiscal Impact" below.	

SUMMARY:

House Bill 1496 amends the Crimes Code concerning persons not to possess, use, manufacture, control, sell, or transfer firearms. It would take effect in 60 days.

ANALYSIS:

House Bill 1496 amends the Crimes Code to increase penalties for possession of firearm by a convicted felon. It increases the penalty to a felony of the first degree if the person has previously been convicted of this offense or if, at the time of the commission of an offense, the person was in physical possession or control of a firearm, whether visible, concealed about the person, or within the person's reach. Under current law this would be a felony of the second degree, punishable by up to 10 years in prison and up to a \$25,000 fine. A felony of the first degree carries a sentence of up to 20 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Enactment of this legislation could have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth by lengthening sentences for certain convicted felons who illegally possess, use, manufacture, control, sell, or transfer firearms. The current maximum sentence is 10 years in prison and House Bill 1496 would extend that maximum to 20. Therefore, any additional costs would not begin to accrue until 10 years after enactment, if an individual convicted under this legislation begins serving an 11th year of incarceration. It is not possible to provide an estimate of what those costs may be at this time.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Miller
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: October 26, 2016

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.