

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 975

PRINTER NO. 1228

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

General Fund
Judicial Computer System
Augmentation Account

DATE INTRODUCED

October 31, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Brooks

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 975 amends Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) to increase the grading of the offense of terroristic threats.

Section 2706 (relating to terroristic threats) of Title 18 is amended by increasing the grading of the offense from a misdemeanor of the first degree to a felony of the third degree when the threat relates to a school or educational facility.

Additionally, the legislation provides for reimbursement to affected entities for costs of an evacuation or other response resulting from the threat. These costs would include, but not limited to, the following:

- Costs of supplies, equipment or materials used to respond to the threat;
- Costs of prepared and unprepared food that went unused as the result of an evacuation or diversion from normal operations of a school or educational facility;
- The salary or other wages, including overtime pay, of employees of police, fire company, EMS, school district or other governmental entities for time spent responding to the threat; and
- The salary or other wages, including overtime pay, of any teacher, administrator, aide or other employee of a school or education facility who was paid despite the diversion from normal operations.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

A person convicted of a misdemeanor of the first degree may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not more than five years and/or be required to pay a fine not exceeding \$10,000. A person convicted of a felony of the third degree may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not more than seven years and/or be required to pay a fine not exceeding \$15,000.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

FISCAL NOTE

Using the Department of Corrections' minimum marginal cost of \$44.12 per inmate/per day for less than 300 inmates, the Commonwealth would incur additional annual costs of approximately \$16,104 for each inmate, or \$80,519 for every five defendants sentenced to a State Correctional Institution.

Additional revenue to be deposited into the Judicial Computer System Augmentation Account will be dependent upon the number of fines collected by the courts.