

JA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 Session

Fiscal Analysis Memorandum

CONFIDENTIAL



Requestor: Sen. Applewhite
Analyst(s): Mark White
RE: Incarceration Memo for the Jenesis Firearm Accountability Act

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FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Criminal offenses are classified as misdemeanors (Class 3 as the lowest and Class A1 as the highest) and felonies (Class I to Class A). There are three types of legislative changes to offenses that may result in a fiscal impact to the State's criminal justice system: creating a new offense, changing the class of an existing offense, or changing the scope of an existing offense.

This proposed legislation would create multiple second-order offenses, effectively creating new Class A, B1, B2, C, D, E, F, and G felonies and a new Class A1 misdemeanor. There is no data to predict how many individuals may be charged or convicted under this proposal. **Therefore, Fiscal Research is unable to project the fiscal impact** of the proposed legislation on the criminal justice system.

Each additional person charged under the proposed offenses will have a cost to the judicial system and each additional person convicted will have a cost to the correction system. The **costs of one charge and conviction** under the possible new charges created in this amendment are listed in the table below, along with the percent of cases that incur those costs at that offense level.

Cost of One Charge and Conviction										
Prosecution and Defense			Active Sentence					Suspended Sentence		
Offense Class	Admin. Office of the Courts	Indigent Defense Services	DAC - Confinement			DAC - Post-Release Supervision (PRS)		DAC - Probation		
Felony	Cost	Cost	Rate	Cost	Length (Mo.)	Cost	Length (Mo.)	Rate	Cost	Length (Mo.)
A	\$70,930	\$9,190	100%	-	Life	N/A	N/A	0%	\$0	0
B1	\$30,500	\$3,668	100%	\$622,245	231	\$3,370	12	0%	\$0	0
B2	\$22,638	\$3,668	100%	\$371,731	138	\$3,370	12	0%	\$0	0
C	\$10,994	\$2,250	100%	\$223,577	83	\$3,370	12	0%	\$0	0
D	\$8,984	\$1,503	100%	\$161,622	60	\$3,370	12	0%	\$0	0
E	\$4,197	\$890	57%	\$70,036	26	\$3,370	12	43%	\$8,986	32
F	\$2,364	\$765	54%	\$48,487	18	\$2,527	9	46%	\$8,424	30
G	\$1,951	\$660	41%	\$40,406	15	\$2,527	9	59%	\$7,301	26



			Cost	Length (Mo.)	Cost	Length (Mo.)	Rate	A	h
A1	\$599	\$284	Active sentences for misdemeanor convictions are served in County jail.		Misdemeanants do not receive PRS.		61%	\$4,493	16
Note: Court costs reflect the average cost per disposition. Costs for active sentences, probation, and post-release supervision reflect the total cost of the sentence or supervision period. Costs to the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program (SMCP) only occur for active sentences > 90 days and impaired driving.									

FISCAL IMPACT OF S.B.161, V.1

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>	<u>FY 2026-27</u>	<u>FY 2027-28</u>	<u>FY 2028-29</u>	<u>FY 2029-30</u>
State Impact					
General Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-
General Fund Impact	No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section				

NET STATE IMPACT	No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section				
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TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: See Technical Considerations Section

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Bill Summary:

This amendment would create the new G.S. 14-409.13, which provides for a new infraction on a failure to report the lost or stolen firearm. Subsection (d) provides that if the firearm is used in the commission of a violent felony or violent misdemeanor, the person who failed to report the lost or stolen firearm will be **guilty of the same level of offense as the offense in which the firearm was used**. To avoid punishment, the person may demonstrate to the court a reasonable inability to have complied with the section.

Violent felonies and violent misdemeanors are defined in existing statute (G.S. 15A-145.6). Violent felonies are Class A through G offenses, while violent misdemeanors are a Class A1 misdemeanor that includes assault as an essential element of the offense. In FY 2023-24, **there were 11,194 convictions for all Class A through G offenses and 5,545 convictions for violent A1 misdemeanors**. However, there is no way of determining how many of these convictions (a) used a firearm, and (b) the firearm was lost by or stolen from another person, and (c) that person failed to report the firearm was lost or stolen within 48 hours, and (d) that person cannot demonstrate to the court a reasonable inability to have complied, and would thus be charged with the same level offense as the one in which the firearm was used. As a result, **Fiscal Research is unable to provide any cost projections for this bill.**

nd exceeds capacity. Based on the most recent population and bed capacity projections from the Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission (SPAC), the State will have sufficient prison beds available beyond the five-year fiscal note horizon. Therefore, Fiscal Research anticipates there will be **no additional prison capital requirements** as a result of this proposed legislation.

Operating Expenses

The table in the Fiscal Impact Summary lists the costs specific to the charge or charges included in this proposal.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Offense changes are typically effective on December 1. FRD assumes that costs incurred in the first year to the judicial and correction systems would be less than annualized costs due to lag time in charges and convictions.
- This estimate assumes that expanding existing or creating new criminal offenses produces no deterrent or incapacitative effect on crime rates. Likewise, FRD assumes no deterrent effects for any modifications to criminal penalties. The estimates in this Incarceration Note make no assumptions about the larger impact on crime rates or costs to society or the State.
- This estimate makes no prediction regarding the likelihood that a prosecutor will charge an offense based on any proposed increases or decreases to the offense class level. This estimate also does not attempt to predict the impact of offense class changes on plea negotiations. FRD assumes the proposed offense class is charged and convicted at the same rate as the prior level.
- For reference, Appendix A to this document shows the costs per charge/conviction for each class of offense in North Carolina.

DATA SOURCES

Department of Adult Correction; Administrative Office of the Courts; North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission; Office of Indigent Defense Services.

FISCAL ANALYSIS MEMORANDUM – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS

This document is a fiscal analysis of a bill, draft bill, amendment, committee substitute, or conference committee report that is confidential under Chapter 120 of the General Statutes. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts. This document is not an official fiscal note. If a formal fiscal note is requested, please email your request to the Fiscal Research Division at FiscalNoteRequests@ncleg.net or call (919) 733-4910.



ION BY OFFENSE CLASS

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Cost of One Charge and Conviction										
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Offense Class	Admin. Office of the Courts	Indigent Defense Services	DAC - Confinement			DAC - Post-Release Supervision (PRS)		DAC - Probation		
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G	\$1,951	\$660	41%	\$40,406	15	\$2,527	9	59%	\$7,301	26
H	\$1,300	\$517	36%	\$26,937	10	\$2,527	9	64%	\$6,739	24
I	\$946	\$430	16%	\$16,162	6	\$2,527	9	84%	\$5,897	21
Misdemeanor	Cost	Cost	Rate	Cost	Length (Mo.)	Cost	Length (Mo.)	Rate	Cost	Length (Mo.)
A1	\$599	\$284	Active sentences for misdemeanor convictions are served in County jail.			Misdemeanants do not receive PRS		61%	\$4,493	16
1	\$346	\$254						61%	\$3,931	14
2	\$183	\$254						75%	\$3,650	13
3	\$63	\$210						82%	\$3,650	13

Note: Court costs reflect the average cost per disposition. Costs for active sentences, probation, and post-release supervision reflect the total cost of the sentence or supervision period. Active sentence cost represents the average monthly cost per offender, not the cost of adding one new offender to the prisoner population. Costs to the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program (SMCP) only occur for active sentences > 90 days and for impaired driving.

