



House of Representatives

File No. 626

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 328)

House Bill No. 5024
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 2, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY CALLS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) A person is guilty of
2 interfering with an emergency call when such person, with the intent
3 of preventing another person from making or completing a 9-1-1
4 telephone call or a telephone call or radio communication to any law
5 enforcement agency to request police protection or report the
6 commission of a crime, physically or verbally prevents or hinders such
7 other person from making or completing such telephone call or radio
8 communication.

9 (b) Interfering with an emergency call is a class A misdemeanor.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Type	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Judicial Dept.; Correction, Dept.	GF - Cost	Potential	Potential
Judicial Dept.	GF - Revenue Impact	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes it a crime to intentionally interfere with an emergency telephone call to request police protection or report the commission of a crime. The bill’s crime is punishable by up to one year imprisonment and/or up to a \$2,000 fine. The average annual cost to incarcerate someone is \$26,331 (\$72/day) not including capital or staff fringe benefit costs. The annual cost of probation could be as high as \$1,000 for these individuals. Any revenue from fines under the bill is anticipated to be minimal.

House Amendment “A” made a clarifying change that has no fiscal impact.

OLR Amended Bill Analysis

HB 5024 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY CALLS**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes it a crime to verbally or physically prevent or hinder another person from making or completing a (1) 9-1-1 call or (2) phone call or radio communication to any law enforcement agency to request police protection or report a crime. The actor must intend to prevent the call's completion.

The bill makes this offense a class A misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to one year, a fine of up to \$2,000, or both.

*House Amendment "A" adds the specific intent requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2003

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 40 Nay 0