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HOUSE BILL 283 Public Safety - Safe Neighborhoods - Pilot Program

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: January 28th

COMMITTEE: Judiciary Committee

SUMMARY OF BILL: This bill requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy (GOCPP) to establish a Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program. The program would work with Law Enforcement and provide doorbell cameras or security systems to populations living in areas with high crime rates. This program would have GOCPP identify eligible areas, purchase and install doorbell cameras/security systems, arrange service of security devices for two years, train residents to use the cameras and (discretionarily) share recordings with law enforcement, secure storage of video recordings, and submit a report about key metrics related to the program.

EXPLANATION: This bill mandates that the Governor shall appropriate \$5 million for the Safe Neighborhoods Pilot Program in FY 2027 through FY 2029. GOCPP notes that in FY 2026, two positions would be needed to support this program in advance of its operational start date due to workload increases. These initial costs are deducted, however, in FY 2027 - FY 2029 from the mandated \$5 million. **Exhibit 1** shows the projected outyear expenditures associated with the program. Additionally, GOCPP notes that the agency is primarily responsible for planning and policy development within the state, but that various responsibilities within this bill (installation, service of security cameras, etc) fall outside the agency's scope of responsibility.

Exhibit 1 – Outyear Projected Expenditures

FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030
\$113,278	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$0

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is charged with submitting a balanced budget to the General Assembly annually and will be working with the General Assembly to achieve structural balance over the long-term. In light of current projected general fund deficits in fiscal 2027 forward, the Department urges caution in passing legislation to significantly increase general fund expenditures

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without commensurate decreases in other areas or additional revenue to fund the new activity. State government must be intentional, disciplined, and strategic with its allocation of State funding to ensure maximum impact toward priority outcomes.

Given the forecasted out-year deficits for the General Fund, it would be challenging for the State to manage this increase in spending.

**For additional information, contact Dana Phillips at
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