

The Judicial Branch does not have a specific code relating to offenses against horses. This indicates a small number of offenses since "offense codes" are established only when the number of offenses is significant. Further, charges filed relating to offenses against other animals has been small. Based on this finding, the Sentencing Commission does not expect this offense to have any significant impact on prison populations. The Sentencing Commission estimates, for example, that if 10 individuals were convicted of this offense per year, approximately 2 additional inmates would be added to the prison population. If there were as many as 30 convictions, no more than 6 additional inmates would be added to the prison system. These few potential additional inmates could be absorbed within Department of Correction resources by 1997-98, when bed capacity will be expanded and when this bill's impact will first be felt.

Likewise, there would not be a significant fiscal impact on the Judicial Branch, as there would not be any major changes in the time required to process or dispose of these cases.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Correction; Judicial Branch; North Carolina Sentencing and Policy Advisory Commission

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION

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