

# How Rich Counties Raise Costs for the State: A Snapshot of Penalty-Enhancing Bills Advancing in the 2025 Session

*Lawmakers who sponsor higher penalties tend to represent richer counties less affected by jail bills*

| Bill Number                     | Bill Title  | Fiscal Note? | Finance Comm.? | Bill Status                         | Lead Sponsor        | County     | County Budget Rank (largest to smallest) | % of Allotted Jail Days County Used in 2024 | Jail Bills Equal to the Following % of County Budget |
|---------------------------------|---|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|--|---|--|
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 121</a> | Updating language and increasing penalties for indecent exposure  | No           | No             | Passed Senate                       | Sen. Ryan Weld      | Brooke     | 19th                                     | 62.4%                                       | 1.6%   |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 136</a> | Modifying parole eligibility for person serving sentence for first degree murder                            | No           | No             | Passed Senate                       |                     |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 151</a> | Creating crime of assault on police dogs and other public safety animals                                    | No           | No             | Passed Senate                       |                     |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2871</a> | Relating to the crime of negligent homicide   | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. Joe Funkhouser | Jefferson  | 8th                                      | 53.1%                                       | 1.7%   |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2894</a> | Prohibiting human trafficking of illegal aliens   | No           | No             | Passed Judiciary Committee (House)  | Del. Bill Ridenour  |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 196</a> | Increasing penalties for drug possession and updating list of offenses                                      | No           | No             | Passed Senate                       | Sen. Vince Deeds    | Greenbrier | 16th                                     | 70.1%                                       | 2.3%   |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 864</a> | Clarifying inference of criminal intent in burglary prosecution   | No           | No             | Passed Judiciary Committee (Senate) |                     |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2634</a> | To double the criminal penalty for anyone found guilty of sexual assault on a minor                         | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. Adam Vance     | Wyoming    | 27th                                     | 81.5%                                       | 3.1%   |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2217</a> | Relating to penalties for conspiracy to commit murder   | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. Brandon Steele | Raleigh    | 11th                                     | 63.5%                                       | 3.7%   |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2382</a> | To ban homeless camps in municipalities   | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. Gino Chiarelli | Monongalia | 7th                                      | 74.5%                                       | 4.2%   |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 264</a> | Allowing death penalty for intentionally killing law-enforcement officer or first responder in line of duty | Yes          | Yes            | Passed Judiciary Committee (Senate) | Sen. Mike Stuart    | Kanawha    | 2nd                                      | 75.8%                                       | 4.5%   |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2066</a> | Creating a crime for the destruction of first responder equipment.  | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. JB Akers       |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2437</a> | Clarification of penalties for offenses involving Fentanyl  | No           | No             | Passed House                        |                     |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2434</a> | Relating to establishing the Stop Squatters Act   | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. Mike Hornby    | Berkeley   | 3rd                                      | 101.4%                                      | 4.5%   |
| <a href="#">House Bill 2123</a> | Modifying the criminal penalties imposed on a parent, guardian or custodian for child abuse                 | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. Doug Smith     | Mercer     | 17th                                     | 87.8%                                       | 5.5%   |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 138</a> | Enhancing penalties for fleeing officer   | No           | No             | Signed by Governor Law in June 2025 | Sen. Bill Hamilton  | Upshur     | 28th                                     | 173.5%                                      | 9.4%   |
| <a href="#">Senate Bill 240</a> | Updating crime of sexual extortion  | No           | No             | Signed by Governor Law in June 2025 |                     |            |  |   |  |
| <a href="#">House Bill 3190</a> | Controlled Substances and arrestable offenses   | No           | No             | Passed House                        | Del. David Green    | McDowell   | 43rd                                     | 201.0%                                      | 12.4%  |