

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB1662

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Jones, J.C.

3. Committee General Laws

4. Title Law enforcement crisis intervention for persons with mental illness.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** This legislation proposes to amend §9-170 of the Code of Virginia and to add a new section to the Code numbered 15.2-1704.1. These amendments would permit a locality to establish, by ordinance, a Crisis Intervention Team program to assist law-enforcement officers and deputy sheriffs to respond to crisis situations involving persons with mental illness. The legislation specifies that the ordinance shall provide for multidisciplinary training for team members and for the development of a protocol whereby the Crisis Intervention Team shall refer persons with mental illness and their families whom they encounter in crisis situations to local community services boards or, when appropriate, take such persons with mental illness into emergency custody. The locality shall evaluate and report annually on the impact and effectiveness of the Crisis Intervention Team program to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS). DCJS may make available funds from the Community Policing Fund for the Crisis Intervention Team program.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Tentative. See item 8.

6a. **Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2000-01			
2001-02	\$60,000	1	GF
2002-03			

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes. Item 461.

8. **Fiscal implications:** The fiscal implications of this proposal are uncertain. The legislation will allow localities to create by ordinance, a Crisis Intervention Team to assist law enforcement officers respond to situations involving persons with mental illnesses or conditions. However, it does not require the creation of such a team. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate the number of localities that may be interested passing such an ordinance. There is currently no restriction under the Code of Virginia that would prevent a locality from establishing a Crisis Intervention Team through administrative action rather than by ordinance.

However, should the locality pursue the ordinance, the amendments specifies that the law enforcement and deputy sheriffs on the team must receive intensive, multi-disciplinary training delivered by mental health providers, legal experts and mental health consumer groups. The training

curriculum must be reviewed by community services board or behavioral health authority, the attorney for the Commonwealth, and the chief or sheriff of the locality establishing the team. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and the Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services may also review the curriculum.

The legislation states that the DCJS shall make funds available from the Community Policing Fund for the teams. This fund was created as a tax check-off program and as such the funds available are unstable. The fund averages approximately \$37,000 annually in collections. Those funds are currently distributed to localities as mini-grants to support community policing efforts. Therefore, DCJS believes the fund is insufficient to support the Crisis Intervention Team program.

The legislation also requires localities to evaluate and report annually on the impact and effectiveness of the teams to the DCJS. The department anticipates significant interest on the part of localities. As such, the agency estimates that the review of the curriculum and the local evaluations will require one full-time staff person at a cost of approximately \$60,000 annually.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Localities, the Department of Criminal Justice Services.
10. Technical amendment necessary: None.
11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/17/01 / mem

Document: MEM F:\MEM\FIS\01\hb1662.doc

cc: Secretary of Public Safety

PDF Created 1/17/2001 4:43:12 PM