

Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2421

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 Janis

3. Committee Appropriations

4. Title Virginia War Orphans Education Act.

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill entitled the "Virginia War Orphans Education Act", adds the children of parents who are killed or disabled as a result of service in military operations against terrorism, a peace-keeping mission, or a terrorist act subsequent to December 6, 1941, to the list of children eligible to attend public institutions of higher education or other accredited postsecondary institutions granting a certificate, diploma, or degree, free of tuition and required fees. In addition, the bill clarifies that the children of members of the United States Armed Services Reserves and the Virginia National Guard Reserve called to active military duty and who are killed in action or are totally and permanently disabled are also eligible for such benefits.

This bill also makes the benefits consistent between eligible children of members of the military and eligible children and spouses of persons who are killed in the line of duty while employed or serving as law-enforcement officers, firefighters, correctional officers, local and regional jail farm superintendents, sheriffs, deputy sheriffs, and emergency medical services. Further, this bill provides technical amendments to clarify for whom tuition and required fees are waived.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates : Cannot be determined.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: Previous law provided for free tuition, coverage of institutional charges and required fees, and books and supplies for those children of parents who were killed in action, were missing in action, were a prisoner of war, were or became totally and permanently disabled in any armed conflict subsequent to December 6, 1941. This bill incorporates a new population of those children whose parent was involved in military operations against terrorism or a peacekeeping mission or because of a terrorist attack. It is unclear how many students this new legislation would include and thus making the total cost tuition and fees would be waived as part of these proposed changes undeterminable.

One could conclude that there would be a minor fiscal impact beyond the foregone tuition and fees to public institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth since this bill requires each institution to include a statement describing the benefits provided in this bill in

all catalogs or equivalent public relations. The bill specifically prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs from receiving any compensation because of performing the determination of eligibility services.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Public and other accredited post-secondary institutions of higher education operating in the Commonwealth and the Department of Veterans Affairs.

10. Technical amendment necessary: None

11. Other comments: None

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