

Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2820

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Christian, M.

3. Committee Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title Transition Services for Current and Former Foster Care Adolescents and Young Adults

5. Summary/Purpose: House Bill 2820 requires the Department of Social Services to develop and implement a program of transition services for youth in foster care and for those young adults, age 18 to 23, who exit the foster care system. This program shall be designed to enable these youth to obtain independent life skills and education that will allow them to assume personal responsibility for becoming self-sufficient adults. In order to evaluate the success of these transition services, the Department is required to develop outcome and other performance measures for the program. This bill also directs the Department to work with other state agencies to maximize funding and facilitate interagency support for such services.

6. Fiscal impact estimates are preliminary. (see item 8)

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2003-04	\$1,513,204	-	GF
2004-05	\$1,513,204	-	GF

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes. Item 355, subprogram 45301.

8. Fiscal implications: The Chafee Foster Care Independence Act provides federal funds for current and former foster care youth up to age 21. Virginia has had an independent living program for current and foster care youth ages 16 to 21 since 1985. The independent living program offers training to learn skills to transition to adulthood. This training includes daily living skills, vocational training, job preparation, and higher education.

The Department's current independent living program provides 5 years (from age 16 to age 21) of transitional services for current and former foster care youth. Because HB2820 provides an additional 5 years (from age 16 to age 21 = 3 years and from age 21 to age 23 = 2 years) of transitional services, it is estimated that service costs would increase by approximately 100 percent (from 5 years to 10 years). In 2002, there was \$1,513,204 of independent living expenditures. It is projected that it would cost an additional \$1,513,204 (\$1,513,204 * 100 percent) to expand the eligibility age for these services from 13 to 23 years. These funds would have to be supported with general fund dollars since the federal award is fully allocated.

The United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has already developed draft outcome and performance measures to be used by states operating independent living programs that could be used by Virginia. It is expected that these outcome and performance measures will be in place by October 2004 and are a requirement for all states receiving federal independent living funds. Although additional costs would be incurred for state-wide data collection to measure these outcomes in OASIS (Online Automated Services Information System), these costs would be incurred regardless of HB2820.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Virginia Department of Social Services
Local departments of social services

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 01/21/03/kwm

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources