

## Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** House Bill 861

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

**2. Patron**            Riley E. Ingram

**3. Committee**      Courts of Justice

**4. Title**             Permanency planning for children in foster care

**5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill lowers minimum age for a child with the foster care permanency goal of independent living from 16 years of age or older to 14 years of age or older. This bill also changes the definitions of “independent living” and “independent living placement” to include foster care youth, age 14 and over

**6. Fiscal impact is preliminary**

**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2003-04	-	-	-
2004-05	\$780,934	-	General Fund
2005-06	\$780,934	-	General Fund
2006-07	\$780,934	-	General Fund
2007-08	\$780,934	-	General Fund
2008-09	\$780,934	-	General Fund
2009-10	\$780,934	-	General Fund

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** Yes. Items 357.

**8. Fiscal implications:** The federal 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 former foster care youth ages 16 to 21 since 1985. The independent living program offers training skills to transition to adulthood. This training includes daily living skills, vocational training, job preparation, and higher education.

The department does not have sufficient data to estimate the number of additional children this age expansion would add to the independent living program caseload. The projected fiscal impact assumes that the program’s expenditures would increase proportionally by the number of additional years of service provided. The independent living services program currently provides five years (from age 16 to 21) of transitional services for foster care youth. The additional two years of services prescribed by House Bill 861 (from age 14 to age 16) would raise caseload/costs by an assumed 40 percent. In FY 2003, there was \$1,952,334 of independent living expenditures. It is projected that it would cost an additional \$780,934 (\$1,952,334 x 40 percent) to expand the eligibility age for these services from 14 to 21 years.

These costs would have to be supported with general funds since the federal award is fully allocated.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Department of Social Services

Local departments of social services

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** None

**11. Other comments:** None

**Date:** 01/20/04 / kwm

**Document:** G:\2004 Fiscal Year\Efis\Hb861.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources