

Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB480

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 Frederick

3. Committee Education

4. Title Commonwealth Scholars Program.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Creates the Commonwealth Scholars Program, consisting of scholarships awarded to Virginia public high school graduates finishing in the top 5% of their respective classes, who have passed the required Standards of Learning assessments, and enrolled as full-time undergraduate students in any accredited, degree-granting public institution of higher education in Virginia. The scholarships would support the full cost of tuition for one year only and would not be applied to fees, room, board, or other educational expenses. Should available funds be insufficient to provide full tuition, the State Council of Higher Education will determine the amounts of scholarship awards.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Preliminary, see line 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes. Item 143.

8. Fiscal implications:

The potential fiscal impact of this legislation can be shown in different scenarios. The number of diplomas issued for FY 2004-2005 was 69,429. The average tuition for public institutions is \$3,800. Based on the top five percentages of graduates and assuming 75 percent attendance at Virginia's public colleges and universities, the estimated total cost for each year is \$9,893,633. With a 90% attendance rate, the cost is \$11,872,359. This is exclusive of any tuition increases.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: All Virginia public colleges and universities, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 2/8/06/rsa

cc: Secretary of Education