

Department of Planning and Budget

2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 873

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

2. Patron Byron, Kathy J.

3. Committee Courts of Justice

4. Title Child abuse; adds information technology professionals to list required to report

5. Summary/Purpose: Amends §63.2-1509 of the Code of Virginia by requiring information technology professionals to report suspected child abuse and neglect to local departments of social services or to the child abuse and neglect hotline. Information technology professionals include persons employed as computer providers, installers, repair persons, or Internet service providers.

6. Fiscal impact is preliminary

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	\$95,717	-	General Fund
2007-08	-	-	-
2008-09	\$75,000	-	General Fund
2009-10	-	-	-
2010-11	\$75,000	-	General Fund
2011-12	-	-	-

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 338.

8. Fiscal implications: This legislation adds information technology professionals to the list of mandated reporters of suspected child abuse and neglect under §63.2-1509 of the Code. All mandated reporters under this section currently have a professional or official capacity that involves services to children and families. Persons employed as information technology professionals do not fall into this category and usually have no involvement with children as a part of their routine job duties. Because of this, the department maintains that it would have to educate the new reporters so they will be able to meet the requirements of the bill.

The department would have to develop a specialized training that is geared towards an individual with limited knowledge of child and family issues. Information technology professionals may encounter child abuse and neglect first hand while making a house call for repairs or may find evidence of it on a computer they are servicing. As such, this training would have to educate these professionals in detail about issues associated with child abuse

and neglect (i.e. what constitutes abuse and neglect of children, indicators of abuse, responsibilities of a reporter, etc.)

It is estimated that it would take a wage employee approximately 500 hours in the first year to develop this training. These hours include time to partner with organizations to identify information technology professionals, develop a comprehensive training module, and devise a plan and method for disseminating the training to information technology professionals. Using a mid-range salary for pay band 5, personnel costs are estimated at \$20,717.

Information technology professionals are not required to be licensed in the state of Virginia. As such, the department has no idea about how many of these professionals this legislation impacts. The department estimates that it would cost a minimum of \$75,000 for training materials; however, this amount could significantly increase depending on the number of these professionals. This amount includes the cost of printing, graphic design, and mailing of pamphlets, brochures, and other education materials to information technology professionals, universities, schools of technology, and any related professional organizations. Training materials would also be available via the internet. It is anticipated that the department would have to revisit and provide additional materials every other year.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Social Services

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 01/31/06

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources