

## Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** SB665

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron**        Ticer

**3. Committee**   Privileges & Elections

**4. Title**            Virginia Human Rights Act; Human Rights Council.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** Revises the definition of “unlawful discriminatory practice”; to include violations of statutes or regulations pertaining to employment, public accommodations, education, and real estate transactions. The bill also provides limited immunity from civil liability and other actions for any person who, in good faith, files a complaint with the Council. The bill also: (i) changes the name of the Human Rights Council to the Virginia Council on Human Rights, (ii) adds definitions for “complainant,” “conciliation,” “real estate transaction,” and “respondent” (iii) empowers the Council to administer oaths and take testimony under oath, (iv) removes the prohibition on the Council adopting regulations on substantive matters when another state agency is authorized to do so, (v) establishes the Human Rights Office within the Council, and (vi) provides procedures for the initiation and investigation of complaints and the conduct of proceedings.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are unknown.**

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No, (see line 8)

**8. Fiscal implications:** The changes proposed would have a minimal fiscal impact on the Human Rights Council as it is currently structured. However, the fiscal impact of the addition of §2.2-2635 E. requiring the Council to be responsible for witness fees in situations where a party is unable to pay is unknown and the costs would have to be borne by the general fund.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Human Rights Council

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No

**11. Other comments:** No

**Date:** 1/24/06 mtb

**Document:** G:\2006session\Fis\Sb665.Doc Mike Barton

c: Secretary of Administration