

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2041

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Hamilton

3. Committee Passed both houses

4. Title Department of Correctional Education; online learning.

5. Summary/Purpose: The proposed legislation would empower the Department of Correctional Education (DCE) to develop programs for restricted internet access to online higher education courses by incarcerated persons.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Indeterminate. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: None.

8. Fiscal implications: The bill would authorize DCE to develop programs for inmates to access online higher education courses. As the proposed legislation does not require such access be provided, DCE would only incur costs if the agency moves forward with the programs. Should such a program be provided by DCE, the agency would incur costs associated with the installation of secure lines to provide access to the courses in the correctional facilities. Currently, only one facility has a secure line inside the fence. The costs of providing secure internet access within each facility are unknown. DCE currently has the computers needed to provide such a program.

The tuition costs associated with participating in the online courses would be borne by the inmates.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Correctional Education, Department of Corrections, and VITA

10. Technical amendment necessary: None

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 02/06/07 / smc

Document: F:\SMC\GA\FIS 2007\HB2041ER.Doc

cc: Secretary of Finance

Secretary of Public Safety