

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2604

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 Jones, D.C.

3. Committee Education

4. Title Waiver of tuition for children and spouses of certain public safety personnel.

5. Summary/Purpose: Amends the provisions of the Code allowing the spouse and children of certain deceased public safety personnel to attend a Virginia state-supported institution of higher education free of tuition and fees. If the spouse or children are entitled to benefits under the Line of Duty Act, then they are also entitled to the tuition waiver. The tuition waiver program is currently drawn more narrowly than the Line of Duty Act.

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

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: This bill expands the number of categories eligible for free tuition and fees to all individuals covered under the Line of Duty Act. At present, there are nine eligible categories, while this legislation will increase the number to eighteen. The exact number of eligible dependents is not available and is variable due to the variable number of fatalities each year. The Department of Veterans Services, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the Department of Accounts estimate the number is not likely to be significant; thus, this legislation would have a minimal impact on the state's higher education institutions if this benefit is utilized.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: All state colleges and universities, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Department of Accounts, and Department of Veterans Services.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: Companion bill is SB 1187.

Date: 1/29/07/RSA

C: Secretary of Education

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