

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB 1088

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Phillip P. Puckett

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Pregnant Women Support Act

5. **Summary/Purpose:** This legislation proposes to amend and reenact the section to the Pregnant Women Support Act and establishing the Pregnant Women Support Fund, which will be administered by the Board of Health to support women and families who are facing an unplanned pregnancy. It further requires that practitioners counsel women about the importance of HIV testing, provide written information and appropriate referrals in the event of positive test results for Down syndrome and other prenatal diagnosed conditions.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are Preliminary:** See item #8.

Expenditure Impact:

	<i>Dollars</i>		
<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>GF</i>	<i>NGF</i>	<i>Positions</i>
2006-07	-	-	0.0
2007-08	\$80,000	-	1.0
2008-09	\$75,000	-	1.0
2009-10	\$75,000	-	1.0
2010-11	\$75,000	-	1.0
2011-12	\$75,000	-	1.0

7. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes. Item # 291-State Health Services (43000).

8. **Fiscal implications:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH) advises that accurately estimating the total impact is extremely difficult given that the number of unwanted pregnancies in the Commonwealth is approximately 48,000 per year. VDH cannot accurately predict how many of these women would choose to take advantage of these services if offered.

The legislation calls for the creation of programs such as data collection, domestic violence, public awareness, student support, early childhood education and home visiting. Programs such as these already exist to serve these purposes. The legislation also places additional requirements on licensed practitioners by requiring them to advise every pregnant patient of the value of testing for HIV as part of prenatal care and to provide the patient with up-to-date

information and counseling. However, VDH is not responsible for the enforcement of regulations over private practitioners and cannot determine the total financial impact of this legislation would have on these practitioners.

Specific uses of the funds such as purchasing and upgrading ultrasound equipment are expenses currently born by practitioners. This bill would shift the burden to the Virginia Pregnant Women Support Fund, thereby increasing the amount of funding required to be raised to fund such equipment. The bill provides the Board of Health with the authority to solicit gifts, donations, bequests, and grants. The Council shall submit to the Governor an annual report of all gifts, donations, grants and bequests accepted; the names of the donors; and the respective amounts contributed by each donor. In order to carry out these functions, the staffing of one program manager, classified as a Public Relations Specialist, would be required. The position would result in the cost of \$80,000 for FY 2007, which includes the salary of \$60,000 plus 25% benefits and \$5,000 one-time cost of office supplies and equipment.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Virginia Department of Health

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: Legislation is similar to HB 3183.

Date: 2/1/07

Document: SB1088.doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources