

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1449

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Delegate Crockett-Stark

3. Committee: Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title: Public higher education institutions establishing crisis and emergency management plans

5. Summary: This bill requires the board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education to develop, adopt, and keep current a written crisis and emergency management plan. Every four years the institution will be expected to conduct a comprehensive review and revision of its plan to ensure that it remains current. Once completed, the plan will require the approval of the board or other governing body, with a written certification being submitted to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). The institution will also be expected to coordinate with the local emergency management organization to ensure integration of its plan into the locality's emergency operations plan. The VDEM will be expected to assist institutions, as necessary, in the development of their plans.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate (see Section 8)

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: There should be minimum impact to the state budget because the development and maintenance of written crisis and emergency management plans fall within the responsibility of the public higher education institutions to ensure the safety and well-being of their faculty, staff, and students. The cost of developing these plans would be absorbed by the institutions. Most of the Commonwealth's colleges and universities already have established emergency plans in place resulting from their individual master plans and the requirements for disaster recovery under Executive Order 44 (2007), which mandates all state agencies, including higher education institutions, to create or update Continuity of Operations Plans by April of each year. The VDEM has until early December each year to complete its review of these plans. Only those institutions that currently do not have emergency management plans in place would be the ones most affected by this proposed legislation and seeking the most assistance from VDEM staff.

The guidance that the VDEM would provide to the institutions of higher education as a result of this proposed legislation would be comparable to what is currently being provided to all other state agencies and political subdivisions using available staff and resources. As long as the proposed legislation is limited to public higher education institutions and the submission

of the plans are staggered over the four year period, the VDEM should be able to provide the required services without any additional positions or general fund support.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia's public higher education institutions and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: N/A

11. Other Comments: This is the companion bill to HB 489, HB 1268, and SB 256.

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