

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 256

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: Senator Deeds

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

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 higher education institution to develop, adopt, and keep current a written crisis and emergency management plan; with a comprehensive review conducted and necessary revisions made every four years. The plan will be approved by the board or governing body and certified in writing to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM). The VDEM will provide assistance to the institution, as necessary, in the development of its plans. Integration of the plan will be made into the locality's emergency operations plan.

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 a written crisis and emergency management plan falls within the responsibility of the public higher education institution to ensure the safety and well-being of its faculty, staff, and students. The cost of developing this plan would be absorbed by the institution. Most of the Commonwealth's colleges and universities already have established emergency plans 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 the VDEM staff.

The guidance that the VDEM would provide as a result of this legislation would be comparable to what is currently being provided to all other state agencies and political subdivisions. Given that this legislation is limited to public higher education institutions and the submission of the plans are staggered over a four year period, the VDEM should be able to provide the required services using existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia's public higher education institutions, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The language in this bill is identical to the requirement for a crisis and emergency management plan in HB 1449.