

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB539S1

House of Origin Introduced X Substitute X Engrossed

Second House X In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Obenshain

3. Committee: Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title: Violence Prevention Committee and threat assessment teams at each public college or university

5. Summary: Each public college or university shall have in place policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on campus, including assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the campus community. The board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education shall determine a committee structure on campus of individuals charged with education and prevention of violence on campus. Each committee shall include representatives from student affairs, law enforcement, human resources, counseling services, residence life, and other constituencies as needed. Such committee shall also consult with legal counsel as needed. Once formed, each committee shall develop a clear statement of: (i) mission, (ii) membership, and (iii) leadership. Such statement shall be published and available to the campus community.

Each committee shall be charged with: (i) providing guidance to students, faculty, and staff regarding recognition of threatening or aberrant behavior that may represent a threat to the community; (ii) identification of members of the university community to whom threatening behavior should be reported; and (iii) policies and procedures for the assessment of individuals whose behavior may present a threat, appropriate means of intervention with such individuals, and sufficient means of action, including interim suspension or medical separation to resolve potential threats to the campus community. The board of visitors or other governing body of each public institution of higher education also shall establish a specific threat assessment team that shall include members from law enforcement, mental health professionals, representatives of student affairs and human resources, and, if available, college or university counsel. Each threat assessment team shall establish relationships or utilize existing relationships with local and state law enforcement agencies as well as mental health agencies to expedite assessment and intervention with individuals whose behavior may present a threat to safety.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: After the incident at Virginia Tech, all state colleges and universities, and many of the private not for profit colleges and universities, assembled at a conference in Richmond to develop and assess their disaster planning and determine their risk assessments. All state colleges and universities have a police or security team, and have worked to upgrade system notifications and prevention programs. Additional costs to meet the intent of this legislation, if any, cannot be determined.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: All state colleges and universities, board of visitors for each college or university, local law enforcement, community mental health agencies, and other agencies deemed appropriate.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The companion bill to this legislation, HB1316 has been incorporated with HB1449.

Date: 2/15/2008/rsa

C: Secretary of Education