

Department of Social Services 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 633

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Ticer

3. Committee: -

4. Title: Prisoners; Notification of Child Support Due

5. Summary: This legislation, as amended, requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to cooperate with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE), in identifying prisoners who are court-ordered to pay child support and in determining the amounts owed. This must occur at intake, at least annually thereafter, and no more than 30 days prior to discharge.

6. Minimal Fiscal Impact

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires the Department of Corrections (DOC) to cooperate with the Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) in identifying prisoners who are court ordered to pay child support. This will necessitate an enhancement in the systems capabilities of both departments to facilitate a data match or automated exchange of information. The projected cost for programming of the child support system is approximately \$80,000 (800 hours x \$100/hr). This one-time expenditure of would be split between general fund (\$27,200) and federal dollars (\$52,800) and can be absorbed with existing DCSE appropriation.

The Department of Corrections has counselors at its reception and classification centers that work with inmates when they enter the state's prison system. Among other activities, these counselors provide the inmates with information regarding the procedures and processes that could affect them while they are incarcerated. This bill would add another piece of information that the counselors would need to provide—notice of any child support payments for which they are liable and their right to seek modification of the court order, along with information on how to seek the modification. Corrections should be able to provide this information in its intake process without any additional resources. Similarly, counselors are assigned to inmates in whatever correctional facility they are housed. These counselors provide the inmates with updates on various items that affect them and provide them with information they will need when they are released. The periodic information regarding the amount of child support arrearages owed could be provided by these counselors along with other information needed by the inmates.

Finally, there may be a slight increase in revenue if DCSE receives more timely information on the release of ex-offenders; however, any increase is expected to be minimal.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Social Services

Department of Corrections

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 2/13/2008

Document: G:\2008 Fiscal Year\08 Session\FIS\SB633e.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources