

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB501

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Watkins

3. Committee: Senate Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program moved to executive branch.

5. Summary: Changes the Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program from a legislative agency with its own legislatively appointed commission to an agency under the auspices of the Criminal Justice Services Board.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, move appropriation and authorized positions from the Commission on Alcohol Safety Action Program to Department of Criminal Justice Services

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Tentative (see Item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: The Commission on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) was formed by the General Assembly in 1986 to provide for the standardization of alcohol safety action programs around the Commonwealth, thereby, increasing the quality and equity of services to offenders statewide. Code of Virginia, §18.2-271.2, states the Commission shall consist of 15 specified members who shall establish and ensure the maintenance of minimum standards and criteria for program operations and performance, accounting, auditing, public information and administrative procedures for the various local alcohol safety action programs and shall be responsible for overseeing the administration of the statewide VASAP system.

VASAP oversees 24 local alcohol safety action programs (ASAP) serving almost 64,000 people. The current network of programs provides coverage to the entire Commonwealth. These programs are funded exclusively by nongeneral funds (offender fees). SB 501 removes the current oversight management authority of VASAP and creates a new authority within the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), under the direction of the Criminal Justice Services Board (CJSB). Currently, the CJSB is strictly a policy making board whereas this legislation requires the CJSB to function as a management board.

It is assumed the existing appropriation and positions for VASAP would need to be transferred to DCJS in the budget consistent with this legislation. Although it is anticipated that the existing program could be transferred with no change in expenditures, it is possible that future costs might be incurred to make VASAP's database consistent with Virginia

Information Technologies Agency (VITA) standards. At present, VITA has no oversight of VASAP, but would if it is moved to DCJS. This cost cannot be determined at this time.

The impact, if any, of this legislation on the operations of local alcohol safety action programs is unknown.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: VASAP, DCJS

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: There is litigation pending that will likely impact this legislation. The litigation challenges the authority of VASAP to assert its powers as outlined in §18.2-271.2 of the Code of Virginia.

Date: January 24, 2012

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c: Secretary of Public Safety