

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1580

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: Watts

3. Committee: House Committee for Courts of Justice

4. Title: Bar exam; preservation of examination papers; copies available to applicant.

5. Summary: Allows an applicant who failed the bar exam to obtain copies of the essay questions and his answers by written request within 60 days after notice of failure and for a reasonable fee.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item #8)

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation would allow bar exam candidates who fail the exam to request a copy of the essay questions and his/her answers to those questions within 60 days of notice that he/she has failed the exam. The exam is given twice a year, once in February and once in July.

According to the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners (VBBE), there are usually over 400 bar exam candidates that fail the exam during each testing period. The agency estimates it would cost about \$50 per request to pull the exam answers, photocopy the documents and mail them to the requestor. Each exam has 10 essay questions with answers to those questions ranging from 3 to 5 pages long.

There is very little time between the release of exam scores from the February exam and the filing deadline and application process for the July exam. Depending on the volume and timing of the requests, according to VBBE, they may have to hire an hourly personnel to assist with such requests.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Board of Bar Examiners

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None