

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1808

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

2. Patron: Herring

3. Committee: Criminal Law

4. Title: Missing persons; search and rescue.

5. Summary: Provides that no local law-enforcement agency shall establish or maintain any policy that requires a waiting period before accepting a critically missing adult report, and requires a local law-enforcement agency that receives such a report to initiate an investigation of the case within two hours of receipt. The bill defines a critically missing adult as any missing adult 21 years of age or older whose disappearance indicates a credible threat to the health and safety of the adult as determined by a law-enforcement agency and under such other circumstances as deemed appropriate after consideration of all known circumstances. The bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish training standards and publish a model policy for missing children, missing adults, and search and rescue protocol. The bill also requires the Department of Emergency Management to establish a Coordinator of Search and Rescue. This bill is a recommendation of the Virginia State Crime Commission.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Emergency Management the proposal will not have a fiscal impact on the agency. The Department has an existing position that will satisfy the requirement of establishing a Coordinator of Search and Rescue position.

The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) states that this proposal is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the agency. However, as part of its regular responsibilities, DCJS develops model public safety policies and training standards. There are several bills being considered by the legislature that would direct the agency to develop specific new policies and training standards. If more than two of these bills were enacted, the agency could need additional resources to implement them in a timely manner.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Emergency Management, Department of Criminal Justice Services, state and local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 26, 2015
DPB Analyst: jgc