

## Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB2060

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

**2. Patron:** Sickles

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

**4. Title:** Travel expenses; approval required by the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council.

**5. Summary:** The bill requires members of the General Assembly, prior to incurring travel expenses, to submit requests for travel expense reimbursement to the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (the Council) for the Council's review, if the travel expenses exceed or are expected to exceed \$500 and are incurred on official travel. Expenses that are related to the performance of legislative duties during any regular or special session of the General Assembly or are incurred in furtherance of carrying out duties imposed by statute or the work of any standing committee of the General Assembly or legislative interim study commission or committee are not required to be submitted to the Council for approval in order to be reimbursed. The bill requires the Council to approve such a request where at least 90 percent of the travel is dedicated to the purpose of economic development, diplomacy, trade relations, or education. The bill directs the Council to prescribe the standards and procedures for receiving, reviewing, and approving or denying such requests. Until approved by the Council, reimbursement by the Commonwealth is prohibited.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:**

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	0	0	n/a
2016	\$93,000	1	General Fund
2017	\$93,000	1	General Fund
2018	\$93,000	1	General Fund
2018	\$93,000	1	General Fund
2020	\$93,000	1	General Fund
2021	\$93,000	1	General Fund

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It should be noted that the Council is currently unfunded. This statement of fiscal impact makes no attempt to address the duties of the Council previously established in Code. Instead, this statement will only address changes in impact for responsibilities beyond current Code as presented by this bill. The bill presents fiscal

impacts related to staffing of the Council. Per § 30-357 of the Code, the Division of Legislative Services (DLS) is assigned staffing responsibilities to perform duties as assigned by the Council, including the duties enumerated in the Council's authorizing language. This bill expands these duties to include the processing and approval of travel expense reimbursement requests. DLS believes the bill presents the need for \$93,000 per year to cover an additional staffing position and associated costs.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council; the Division of Legislative Services.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.