Department of Planning and Budget
2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2106

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

2. **Patron:** Peace

3. **Committee:** Rules

4. **Title:** Joint Commission on Virginia Indian Recognition; report.

5. **Summary:** Joint Commission on Virginia Indian Recognition; report. Creates the Joint Commission on Virginia Indian Recognition to review applications and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding applications of groups seeking recognition as Virginia Indian Tribes. The bill designates the membership, powers, and duties of the Commission; sets out criteria for formal recognition of Virginia Indian Tribes; and requires a report of the Commission's activities and recommendations.

   The substitute bill increases the Senate membership to three, thereby increasing overall Commission membership to 14. It establishes a Virginia Indian Recognition Fund, a special nonreverting fund to be established on the books of the Comptroller. The substitute bill also allows for Indian tribes with roots in the historical tribes of Virginia or federally recognized tribes outside of Virginia, may apply for commending resolutions that would honor the group's educational and assistance programs without conferring formal tribal recognition. It also provides that the Commission will expire on July 1, 2018.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: Yes, see Item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates**: Preliminary, see Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications**:
   The Department of Planning and Budget is not able to estimate the potential fiscal impact associated with this legislation. Board members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, all members shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Administrative staff support shall be provided by the Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Office of the Clerk of the Senate as may be appropriate for the house in which the chairman of the Commission serves. The Division of Legislative Services shall provide legal, research, policy analysis, and other services as requested by the Commission The proposed legislation is similar to the statute establishing the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (§ 2.2-2424, et. seg) Given this, the Joint Commission on Virginia Indian Recognition could be established similar to the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board, which employees a full-time director. Chapter 806, 2013 Acts of Assembly, provides $175,361 in FY 2014 for the Virginia-Israel Advisory Board (and HB 30/SB30, provides $200,272 in FY 2015, and

$200,347 in FY 2016). These funds cover the operating expenses of the board, including the director's salary and benefits, travel, and several contractors. It is anticipated that if the proposed Joint Commission on Virginia Indian Recognition is similarly structured, then the fiscal impact could be comparable, and a budget amendment would be necessary.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected**: Office of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Office of the Clerk of the Senate and the Division of Legislative Services.

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