

# Department of Planning and Budget

## 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB1301ER

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed

**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

**2. Patron:** McEachin

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** Use of unmanned aircraft systems by public bodies; search warrant required.

**5. Summary:** The legislation replaces the moratorium on the use of unmanned aircraft systems by state and local law enforcement and regulatory entities, except in defined emergency situations or in training exercises related to such situations, that will expire on July 1, 2015, with an absolute prohibition on the use of unmanned aircraft systems by such law enforcement and regulatory unless a search warrant, or an administrative or inspection warrant issued pursuant to law has been obtained prior to such use, or if a person with legal authority consents to the warrantless search.

The warrant requirement does not apply to certain search and rescue operations, certain Virginia National Guard and U.S. Armed Forces functions, research and development conducted by institutions of higher education or other research organizations, or the use of unmanned aircraft systems for private, commercial, or recreational use.

Except in operations at the Space Port and Naval/Aegis facilities at Wallops Island, the legislation prohibits the deployment of weaponized unmanned aircraft system in the Commonwealth or its use being facilitated by a state or local government entity or department of law enforcement in the Commonwealth.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The legislation has no material impact on state law enforcement and regulatory entities.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of State Police, state and local law enforcement and regulatory entities.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None.

**11. Other Comments:** Identical to HB2125.

**Date:** 3/6/2015-SB1301ER.docx (LAJ)