

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB550

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<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:** Accessibility of bar exam essay papers to applicants

**5. Summary:** Allows an applicant who failed the bar exam to review the essay questions and his answers by submitting a written request no later than 60 days after notice of failure to the applicant.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** In accordance with the Code of Virginia, § 54.1-3925, the bar examination is administered twice a year, once in February and once in July. According to the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners (VBBE), an average of 225 applicants fail the exam during the February testing and roughly 400 applicants fail the exam during the July testing. The provisions of this bill would allow applicants who failed the bar exam access to exam questions and answers.

According to VBBE, each applicant has 9 essay answers in booklet form with some answers 2 pages long and some answers as many as 10 pages long. Due to limited personnel, VBBE would likely have to hire hourly employees to retrieve the records, make copies and mail the copies to the requesting applicant. VBBE anticipates charging applicants a minimum charge of \$50 per request to cover the costs.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None