

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB535

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Deeds

3. Committee: Finance

4. Title: Virginia Behavioral Health Practitioner Student Loan Repayment Fund and Program, created.

5. Summary: This bill establishes the Virginia Behavioral Health Practitioner Student Loan Repayment Fund and Program to provide student loan repayment grants to eligible behavioral health practitioners who agree to a 24-month employment obligation with a community services board, behavioral health authority, or Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) facility or with an entity that has entered into a contract with a community services board, behavioral health authority or DBHDS facility to provide behavioral health services. Grants may be up to \$10,000 per recipient per year, and the DBHDS may award up to 250 grants per year.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, new Item may be required.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See fiscal implications below.

8. Fiscal Implications: There are two components to the possible fiscal impact of this bill – the cost of the grant program and administrative overhead costs. If no funds are deposited into the newly created fund, then the costs of the legislation are negligible and include developing application forms and contracts in event that funds are deposited at some point in the future.

The bill indicates that grants would be awarded in amounts up to \$10,000 per recipient per year, and that DBHDS could award up to 250 grants per year. If all 250 grants were awarded, the loan portion of the program would cost \$2.5 million per year (\$10,000 x 250 grants).

Additionally, if funds are deposited and the agency is required to distribute grants, DBHDS would require a full-time program administrator in the central office in order to effectively administer the program and distribute grant funding. Total general fund dollars necessary for the program administrator position would total \$94,000 and include salary, fringe benefits, and nonpersonal services. This salary is based on average Program Administration salaries at DBHDS central office.

This full-time position is necessary to implement and administer a state-wide grant program that includes state facilities, community services boards, as well as behavioral health

authorities. In addition to program implementation and administration, this staff member will be responsible for state-wide recruiting and marketing strategies to ensure public awareness of the Virginia Behavioral Health Practitioner Student Loan Repayment Fund and Program.

The engrossed version of the bill includes a clause clarifying that the provisions of the bill are dependent on the appropriation of funds in the 2016 general appropriation act that becomes law.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Community Services Boards

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.