

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1853-S1

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

2. Patron: Gilbert

3. Committee: Senate Finance

4. Title: Firearms training for victims of domestic violence

5. Summary:

The proposed legislation would require the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) to reimburse any law-enforcement agency, institution of higher education, private or public institution or organization, or firearms training school for a firearms safety or training course or class provided to victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and family abuse. To qualify for the reimbursement, the entity providing the training would have to meet the following conditions:

- Provide the training at no cost to the victim;
- Be approved by DCJS; and
- Utilize instructors certified by the National Rifle Association or by DCJS.

The source of funding for any reimbursement for such firearms safety or training course or class would be the existing Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund. The legislation directs the Criminal Justice Services Board to establish the process for seeking reimbursement and authorizes it to impose limits on the amount of reimbursement that any entity may request.

In addition to approving firearms safety and training courses or classes and certifying firearms instructors, the legislation directs DCJS to disseminate a list of approved courses or classes. Furthermore, the legislation would require district and circuit courts, upon the issuance of a protective order, to provide the petitioner a list of the approved courses or classes.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. See Item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications:

To implement the legislation, DCJS would need to develop firearms training standards for victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse, stalking, or family abuse. There would be a

one-time cost of approximately \$25,000 to do the research and contract for the standards to be written, which the agency could absorb. The agency would also have to review approved firearms courses of the entities authorized by the legislation to offer such courses for reimbursement. This would be an ongoing activity, but, until it is known how many entities would apply to offer the training, it is not known if additional staff, and thus additional cost, would be needed to review these courses.

The source of the reimbursement for the firearms training courses taken by victims of sexual violence would be the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victims Fund. The Fund is administered by DCJS and, by statute, is to be used to make additional money available to attorneys for the Commonwealth, law enforcement, or other programs, such as civil legal assistance, to hire additional personnel for prosecution or provide other services to aid victims of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual abuse, stalking, and family abuse. The proposed legislation would add another, required use of the money in the Fund. It is not possible to project how much will be needed to reimburse entities that provided firearms safety and training classes for eligible victims, but whatever is needed will have to be diverted from existing recipients and programs that benefit from the Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Criminal Justice Services
Circuit and district courts
Magistrate offices
Local law enforcement agencies
Commonwealth's attorneys

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/10/2017