Department of Planning and Budget
2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2006

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

2. **Patron:** Carr

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses

4. **Title:** Virginia Fair Housing Law; responsibilities with respect to use of an assistance animal in a dwelling.

5. **Summary:** Sets out the rights and responsibilities under the Virginia Fair Housing Law (§ 36-96.1 et seq.) with respect to maintaining an assistance animal in a dwelling. The bill establishes a process for the review and approval or denial of a request from a person with a disability for reasonable accommodation to maintain an assistance animal in such person's dwelling. Under the bill, whenever a request for a reasonable accommodation to maintain an assistance animal in a dwelling is denied for reasons other than that the requester does not have (i) a disability or (ii) a disability-related need for an assistance animal, the person who receives the request shall initiate an interactive process with the individual requesting accommodation to determine if there is an alternative accommodation that would effectively address the disability-related need. The bill removes language providing that the terms "individual with a handicap" nor the term "handicap" do not apply to an individual solely because that individual is a transvestite. The bill also defines assistance animal, major life activities, and physical or mental impairment. The bill also provides that if any provision of the act is determined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to be not substantially equivalent or otherwise inconsistent with the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq., as amended, such provision will not be enforceable.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this bill on the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) is indeterminate. The Virginia Fair Housing Office within DPOR investigates complaints involving the Virginia Fair Housing Law and receives grant funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Virginia's substantial equivalency status and associated federal grant funding is based on conformity between Virginia Fair Housing Law and federal requirements. The effect of this bill on the substantial equivalency status and related grant funding is unknown.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB1228 also sets out the rights and responsibilities under the Virginia Fair Housing Law with respect to maintaining an assistance animal in a dwelling.