

Department of Planning and Budget

2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1228

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

2. Patron: Barker

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Virginia Fair Housing Law; rights and responsibilities with respect to use of an assistance animal.

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.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. 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: This bill is a companion to HB2006, as introduced.