

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2017 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number: SB 1300**

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

**2. Patron: Vogel**

**3. Committee: Senate Courts of Justice**

**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.

Any reimbursement for such firearms safety or training course or class would be from the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Victim Fund (“the 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: None.**

**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 revenue for the Fund is a \$2.00 fee assessed against persons convicted of misdemeanors and traffic infractions and collected as part of the court costs. The Fund is administered by DCJS and 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:** 1/23/2017