

Department of Planning and Budget

2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 1527

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

2. Patron: Senator Saslaw

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Revise the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program grants eligibility

5. Summary: This bill makes several changes to the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP), including adding requirements that:

- each eligible student receives a grant from the institution's appropriations for undergraduate student financial assistance before Virginia Commonwealth Award grants are awarded to students with equivalent remaining need;
- each eligible student receives a grant in an amount greater than Virginia Commonwealth Award grants awarded to students with equivalent remaining need;
- each eligible student receives a grant in an amount greater than the grant of each eligible student with equivalent remaining need in the next-lowest class level;
- each grant be determined by a proportionate award schedule adopted by each institution and vary according to each student's remaining need and the total of tuition, fees, and other necessary charges, including books; and
- students will not receive subsequent grants until they have satisfied the requirements to move to the next class level.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final (see Section 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in order to comply with paragraph D of this proposed legislation, the public institutions of higher education would have to establish larger awards for higher class levels. If no additional general fund support is provided, institutions would either have to reduce the number of student awards or the amount. Any additional general fund support necessary to address the requirements of this bill and keep existing aid recipients at their current aid levels would depend upon the award differentiation by class-level made by the institutions.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia's public institutions of higher education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB 2427 is identical to this bill.

Date: 02/21/17

c: Secretary of Education