

## Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB227

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

**2. Patron:** Stolle

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare, and Institutions.

**4. Title:** Adoption by stepparent; background check.

**5. Summary:** Requires a circuit court, when determining whether an investigation by the director of the local department of social services should be required before a final order is entered to approve as an adoptive parent the spouse of a child's birth or adoptive parent, to consider the results of a national criminal history background check conducted on the prospective adoptive parent. This bill has a sunset clause of July 1, 2020.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill requires circuit courts to conduct a national criminal background check on all stepparents who have filed a petition to adopt a stepchild. It is assumed that the stepparents will bear the cost of the background checks. The engrossed bill has a sunset clause of July 1, 2020.

The results from an increased number of background checks could lead the courts to request an increased number of reports/investigations by the local departments of social services (LDSS); however, any change in the number of reports/investigations is expected to be nominal and can be absorbed within current staffing levels. The LDSS investigations referenced in this legislation are different from Child Protective Services investigations and require minimal time and effort by the LDSS.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, Circuit Courts, Virginia State Police

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.