

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1671-ER

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

2. **Patron:** Mullin

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses

4. **Title:** Child abuse and neglect; investigation of an individual by local boards of social services.

5. **Summary:** Requires local boards of social services, when performing an investigation or family assessment of an individual who is the subject of child abuse or neglect allegations, to obtain and consider a search of the child abuse and neglect central registry, or equivalent registry, of any state in which the individual has resided within the preceding five years, including the Commonwealth.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation adds language requiring each local department of social services (LDSS) to obtain and consider child abuse and neglect registry records of any individual who is the alleged abuser or neglector in a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation or family assessment. Additionally, the bill requires the LDSS to inquire if the alleged abuser or neglector in a CPS investigation has resided in another state within the last five years. If the alleged abuser or neglector has resided in another state within the last five years, the LDSS shall request a search of the child abuse or neglect registry in that state. Furthermore, the bill gives the LDSS the option of obtaining and considering statewide criminal history records on an individual who is the subject of a family assessment. Current law allows LDSS to obtain and consider this information for individuals who are subject to a CPS investigation only.

When the alleged abuser in an investigation or family assessment discloses he has lived in another state during the past five years, the investigator will need to request a search of the child abuse or neglect registry in that state. According to the Department of Social Services (DSS), most states do not require a fee for these checks, so the agency believes that the fees paid by LDSS to other states will be minimal and can be absorbed within the current appropriation. DSS does not charge LDSS for Virginia child abuse and neglect central registry searches.

Additionally, the bill would now allow LDSS to obtain and consider statewide criminal history records for individuals who are subject to a family assessment. Currently, LDSS can choose to obtain these records for subjects of a CPS investigation and it is presumed that the number of current search requests are small; therefore, it is assumed that the number of criminal records obtained for family assessments will be small, as well. The current cost incurred by a LDSS for a criminal history check through the Virginia State Police is \$20. The cost to LDSS of obtaining a criminal records search can likely be absorbed within the current appropriation, as well.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.