

## Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1758

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

**2. Patron:** Collins

**3. Committee:** Courts of Justice

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

**5. Summary:** Removes, effective July 1, 2019, the ability of a prospective adoptive parent, who is a spouse of a birth parent or parent by adoption and who has filed a petition for adoption, to request the Department of State Police to conduct a national criminal background check of such prospective adoptive parent. Under current law, this provision is set to expire July 1, 2020. The bill also removes the condition that a prospective adoptive parent provide the court with a national background check of such person, but continues to require a court to consider such report.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill removes the ability for a stepparent to request a background check on themselves when they file a petition for adoption. Additionally, it removes the July 1, 2020 sunset clause, which means that circuit courts will continue to be required to conduct background checks 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.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.