

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2303 S1

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

2. Patron: Cosgrove

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Sex offenders in emergency shelters; notification registration.

5. Summary: The bill requires any registered sex offender, or one who is required to reregister with the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry, who enters an emergency shelter to notify a member of the shelter's security staff of his presence as soon as practicable after entry. This provision applies to any place or facility designated by the Commonwealth or any political subdivision that is being operated in response to a declared state or local emergency. The bill provides that the use of such Registry information pursuant to this section does not constitute a violation of the Misuse of Registry or Supplement Information statute (§ 9.1-918).

The Department of State Police is required to provide a summary of the provisions of this act to any person required to register on the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry at the time of his initial registration.

The substitute bill prohibits denying entry into an emergency shelter solely on the basis of status as a sex offender unless such entry is otherwise prohibited by law.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Implication Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

8. Fiscal Implications: Currently, the Department of Social Services (VDSS), which is the lead agency for establishing and managing state shelters, follows protocols set in section 5.3 of the State Managed Shelter Plan when interacting with registered sex offenders. These procedures require any individual who is listed in the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry to notify the shelter management of his/her registry status upon entering a state managed shelter. The current protocols also allow VDSS to access the Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry and the National Registry for Sex Offenders to determine if an evacuee's name is a match in either Registry. Shelter security staff who are made aware of any offenders in the shelters are required to maintain heightened observation. Further, no one is denied entry into a shelter under the State Managed Shelter Plan. According to the VDSS, the substitute version of this bill is similar to current protocols regarding sex offenders in the Commonwealth State Managed Shelter Plan and would have no financial impact on VDSS operations.

According to the Department of State Police, providing the required summary of the provisions of this bill to first time registrants is not expected to impact agency operations.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Social Services, Virginia Department of State Police, and Localities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None

11. Other Comments: None