

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2655H1

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

2. Patron: Collins

3. Committee: House Committee on General Laws

4. Title: Eviction Diversion Pilot Program

5. Summary: Establishes the Eviction Diversion Pilot Program (“Program”), consisting of specialized dockets within the existing structure of the general district courts for the cities of Danville, Hampton, Petersburg, and Richmond. The purpose of the Program is to (i) reduce the number of evictions of low income persons from their residential dwellings for failure to pay small amounts of money under their rental agreements; (ii) reduce displacement of families from their homes and the associated adverse consequences to children who are no longer able to remain in the same public school; (iii) encourage understanding of eviction related processes and facilitate the landlord’s and tenant’s entering into a reasonable payment arrangement; (iv) encourage tenants to make rental payments in the manner provided in the rental agreement.

The bill provides the administrative oversight of implementation of the Program and training for the judges who preside over general district courts participating in the Program will be conducted by the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court (“OES”).

Program participation is voluntary and no program provision restricts a landlord for filing an unlawful detainer for a non-rent violation against a tenant while such tenant is participating in the Program or from entering into a voluntary landlord/tenant payment agreement outside of the provisions of the Program.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court, the substitute bill is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on court system resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts and district court clerks

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None