

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2685

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: Torian

3. Committee: Passed both houses

4. Title: Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program; eligibility.

5. Summary: Extends the benefits of the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program to the spouse or child of a veteran with at least a 90 percent permanent, service-related disability. Under current law, the spouse or child would be eligible for benefits only if the veteran's disability was incurred during military operations against terrorism, on a peacekeeping mission, as a result of a terrorist act, or in any armed conflict. Under the provisions of the bill, eligibility for stipends from the Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Fund is unchanged.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See Item 8

8. Fiscal Implications: The Virginia Department of Veteran's Services recently estimated that 500 applications failed to qualify for tuition and fee waivers because a portion of the 90 percent disability was attributable to a non-combat injury. This bill is structured only to provide the tuition waiver for dependents of such individuals and not the authorized stipend; therefore, there is no general fund impact.

The tuition waiver would represent lost revenue for public institutions. Using 2018-19 tuition and fees and spreading the additional 500 students under current participation proportions, this bill would increase student eligibility by roughly 43 percent, resulting in potential annual tuition/fee revenue losses of nearly \$5.4 million.

The largest impact would fall on the following institutions, which currently represent over half of the eligible population: George Mason University (44 new recipients at an annual loss of \$547,000), Old Dominion University (81 new recipients at an annual loss of \$877,000), Virginia Commonwealth University (82 new recipients at an annual loss of \$1.2 million), Northern Virginia Community College (22 new recipients at an annual loss of \$104,000), and Tidewater Community College (32 new recipients at an annual loss of \$148,000).

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia public institutions of higher education, Department of Veterans Services.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.