

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 1025

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

**2. Patron:** Adams

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

**4. Title:** Law-enforcement officers w/disability, former; vocational rehabilitation and employment services

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation directs the Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services to establish a program that provides vocational rehabilitation and employment services to former law-enforcement officers who have a disability as a result of their service as a law-enforcement officer in the Commonwealth.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	-	-	-
2021	1,012,400	4.0	General Fund
2022	768,600	6.0	General Fund
2023	1,024,800	8.0	General Fund
2024	1,024,800	8.0	General Fund
2025	1,024,800	8.0	General Fund
2026	1,024,800	8.0	General Fund

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) reports the legislation would require the agency to develop a separate vocational rehabilitation and employment services program for former law-enforcement officers. Federal regulations would prohibit the use of existing vocational rehabilitation grant funds to support the new program. As such, it is assumed that the stand-alone program would need to be supported entirely with general fund dollars.

Using data provided by the Virginia Retirement System (historical Line of Duty Act claims) and a 2013 JLARC study, DARS estimates that 600 to 800 former law-enforcement officers, who have a disability as a result of their service, may be eligible for services under the provisions of this legislation. As such, it is assumed that 700 individuals would be eligible for this program each year.

The agency reports that the average cost of services, on a per client basis, in the vocational rehabilitation (VR) program currently operated by DARS is \$3,660 annually. This average cost amount includes the cost of services, program administration and back-office functions. DARS assumes that the program required by this legislation would be similar enough to the agency's VR program that its average cost can be used as the basis for estimating the potential cost of the new program. In addition, the legislation also requires that DARS make independent living services available should an eligible participant be unable to work. The agency assumes that the cost per participant for individuals electing these services would be comparable to those experienced in the VR program. Therefore, the average VR cost is also used to estimate the cost independent living services.

There is no way to determine how many eligible former law-enforcement officers would enroll in this new program. For the purposes of this analysis, DARS assumes that approximately 20 percent (140 individuals) of the eligible population (assumed at 700) would receive services in the first year, 30 percent (210 individuals) in the second year and 40 percent (280 individuals) thereafter. Additionally, DARS estimates that approximately \$500,000 would be required in the first year to establish the program and develop new systems. Using caseload metrics from the current VR program, the agency estimates that the new program will require one employee for every 35 participants. The position amounts reflect this ratio.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:**

Department of Aging and Rehabilitative Services

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None