

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB371-H1

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" 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:** Bell

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

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

**5. Summary:** Repeals the July 1, 2020, sunset on provisions that require a circuit court, when determining whether an investigation by the director of the local department of social services should be required before a final order is entered to approve as an adoptive parent the spouse of a child's birth or adoptive parent, to consider the results of a national criminal history background check conducted on the prospective adoptive parent. Additionally, the substitute adds language that requires a court to consider the stepparent's background check when determining whether an investigation should be required before a final order is entered to the sections of the Code of Virginia relating to close relative adoptions.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill removes the July 1, 2020 sunset clause. Additionally, the substitute to the bill adds language that requires a court to consider the stepparent's background check when determining whether an investigation should be required before a final order is entered to the sections of the Code of Virginia relating to close relative adoptions. The stepparents will continue to bear the cost of the background checks. There is no fiscal impact on the Department of Social Services or local departments of social services.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.