

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB475H1

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: Mullin

3. Committee: House Subcommittee on Public Safety

4. Title: Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordination Program

5. Summary: The proposed legislation establishes the Virginia sexual assault forensic examiner coordination program within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The bill provides that the program shall create and coordinate an annual statewide sexual assault forensic nurse examiner training program; coordinate the development and enhancement of sexual assault forensic examiner programs across the Commonwealth; coordinate the development of hospital protocols and guidelines for treatment of survivors of sexual assault; coordinate and strengthen communications among sexual assault nurse examiner medical directors, sexual assault response teams, and hospitals for existing and developing sexual assault nurse examiner programs; provide technical assistance for existing and developing sexual assault forensic examiner programs; establish best practices for billing and reimbursement for medical services provided to survivors of sexual assault; create and maintain a statewide list, updated biannually, that includes pertinent information regarding sexual assault forensic examiners and nurse examiners; create sexual assault nurse examiner recruitment materials for universities and colleges with nursing programs; and support and coordinate community education and public outreach, when appropriate, relating to sexual assault nurse examiner issues for the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 406.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation establishes a sexual assault forensic examiner coordination program within the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), and a new position to coordinate the program. The bill also delineates 11 responsibilities of the new program coordinator (Coordinator), and it establishes the Coordinator's authority and subsequent reporting requirements. DCJS reports that this new position established under the proposed legislation will cost the Department \$131,174, which consists of \$80,000 in salary costs and benefits and personnel costs. Additionally, DCJS states that it cannot determine at this time whether or not the duties and responsibilities specified in the proposed legislation can be fulfilled by one position, and therefore, DCJS reports that additional staffing may be necessary in the future. Furthermore, DCJS reports that, based on past experience, it will cost the agency approximately \$18,000 annually to conduct the annual statewide sexual assault forensic nursing training as required in the proposed legislation.

The other agencies named in the proposed legislation (the Attorney General, Department of Health, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Education, school divisions, and the State Council of Higher Education) do not anticipate a fiscal impact.

The amended version of the proposed legislation: (1) names the Victim Compensation Fund and the International Association of Forensic Nurses as partners in the annual statewide sexual assault forensic nurse examiner training program; (2) specifies the prevention of secondary trauma to sexual assault survivors and cultural sensitivity training for health professionals as components of those sexual assault forensic examiner programs targeted for development and enhancement efforts; (3) requires the Coordinator to participate in the development of hospital protocols and guidelines for treatment of survivors of sexual assault in partnership with the Department of Health; (4) adds local sexual assault forensic examiner training programs as those entities for which the Coordinator is to provide technical assistance; (5) adds the location of available local sexual assault forensic examiner training programs to the list of specified entities which the Coordinator must maintain; and (6) removes the requirement upon the Coordinator to establish best practices for billing and reimbursement for medical services provided to survivors of sexual assault.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Criminal Justice Services; Office of the Attorney General; Department of Health; Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; Secretary of Health and Human Services.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.