

DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Patron** Joseph P. McNamara

3. **Committee** House Finance

4. **Title** Individual Income Tax; Increases the Virginia Standard Deduction

2. **Bill Number** HB 89

House of Origin:

 X **Introduced**

 Substitute

 Engrossed

Second House:

 In Committee

 Substitute

 Enrolled

5. **Summary/Purpose:**

This bill would increase the Virginia standard deduction from \$4,500 to \$4,581 for single individuals and married taxpayers filing separately, and from \$9,000 to \$9,162 for married persons filing joint returns.

This bill would be effective for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2020, but before January 1, 2026.

6. **Budget amendment necessary:** Yes.

Item(s): Page 1, Revenue Estimates

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Preliminary. (See Line 8.)

7b. **Revenue Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020-21	(\$22.1 million)	GF
2021-22	(\$14.6 million)	GF
2022-23	(\$14.7 million)	GF
2023-24	(\$14.8 million)	GF
2024-25	(\$15.0 million)	GF
2025-26	(\$7.6 million)	GF

8. **Fiscal implications:**

Administrative Costs

The Department of Taxation ("the Department") considers this bill as routine, and does not require additional funding.

Revenue Impact

This bill would result in an estimated negative General Fund revenue impact of \$22.1 million in Fiscal Year 2021; \$14.6 million in Fiscal Year 2022; \$14.7 million in Fiscal Year 2023; \$14.8 million in Fiscal Year 2024; \$15.0 million in Fiscal Year 2025; and \$7.6 million in Fiscal Year 2026. This bill would reduce the individual income tax liability of taxpayers

by increasing the standard deduction and, thereby, effectively exempting more income from taxation.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Taxation

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments:

Federal Standard Deduction

On December 22, 2017, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Public Law 115-97) was signed into law. This federal tax reform legislation substantially changes the federal income taxation of individuals and businesses. These changes include substantially increasing the federal standard deduction beginning with Taxable Year 2018 as follows:

- From \$12,700 for married taxpayers filing jointly to \$24,000;
- From \$9,350 for heads of household to \$18,000; and
- From \$6,350 for single taxpayers and married taxpayers filing separately to \$12,000.

In addition, beginning with Taxable Year 2019, these amounts have been indexed for inflation based on chained CPI-U. Therefore, for Taxable Year 2020, the amount of the federal standard deduction, after indexing, is as follows:

- \$24,800 for married taxpayers filing jointly;
- \$18,650 for heads of household; and
- \$12,400 for single taxpayers and married taxpayers filing separately.

Like most other individual provisions of the TCJA, the increase in the amount of the federal standard deduction is currently scheduled to sunset after December 31, 2025, and revert to its pre-2018 form. Future legislation would be required to make such increase effective beyond Taxable Year 2025.

Virginia's Standard Deduction

Under current law, taxpayers that do not itemize their deductions for federal purposes are permitted to claim a standard deduction on their Virginia income tax returns. During the 2019 Session, the General Assembly enacted legislation that increased the amounts of Virginia's standard deduction for Taxable Year 2019 through Taxable Year 2025.

The standard deduction amounts are \$4,500 for single individuals and \$9,000 for married couples. Virginia's standard deduction amounts have changed over the years. The history of such changes from Taxable Year 1987 to the present is shown below:

Year	Virginia Standard Deduction for Single Taxpayers	Virginia Standard Deduction for Married Taxpayers
1987	\$2,000	\$2,000
1988	\$2,700	\$2,700
1989-2004	\$3,000	\$5,000
2005-2018	\$3,000	\$6,000
2019-present	\$4,500	\$9,000

Prior to 1987, the Virginia standard deduction was not a flat amount. Instead, for Taxable Year 1986 for example, the Virginia standard deduction was 15 percent of federal adjusted gross income with a \$1,300 minimum and a \$2,000 maximum.

The amounts of Virginia's standard deduction are currently scheduled to revert to the Taxable Year 2005 through Taxable Year 2018 amounts for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026. In addition, the amounts of the Virginia standard deduction are not currently indexed for inflation.

Proposed Legislation

This bill would increase the Virginia standard deduction from \$4,500 to \$4,581 for single individuals and married taxpayers filing separately, and from \$9,000 to \$9,162 for married persons filing joint returns.

This bill would be effective for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2020, but before January 1, 2026.

Similar Bills

House Bill 1717 would increase the Virginia standard deduction from \$4,500 to \$6,000 for single individuals and married taxpayers filing separately, and from \$9,000 to \$12,000 for married persons filing joint returns.

House Bill 735 would index Virginia's individual income tax brackets, personal exemptions, and individual income tax brackets using the Chained Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

cc : Secretary of Finance

Date: 1/23/2020 JJS
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