

# Commission on Local Government

## Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2020 General Assembly Session

**Bill:** HB5055   **Amended**   **Special Session:** 1   **Patron:** Herring   **Date:** 9/4/2020

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced legislation:

### Bill Summary:

Law-enforcement civilian oversight bodies.

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### Executive Summary:

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$50,000.00 - \$200,000.00. All localities responded with a cost and noted that the cost would be related to (i) salary and fringe benefits for additional staff for the new oversight body/board, (ii) and stipends to the members of the oversight body for conducting meeting. They also noted that there would be additional cost for recruitment and retention of board members as well as staff. One locality that responded has an existing investigative body with similar functions to what this bill would mandate, so they were able to provide detailed cost estimates based on existing practices.

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### Local Analysis:

**Locality:** City of Manassas

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$50,000.00

This \$50,000 is a minimum amount just to create and staff a new board. In addition, if separate legal services for a new board must be paid by the locality, this amount will be significantly greater.

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**Locality:** City of Virginia Beach

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$185,000.00

The City of Virginia Beach currently has an Investigation Review Panel (IRP). The IRP functions as a review/appellant panel of the VBPB's Internal Affairs Office. Therefore, the IRP's duties may be expanded under the provisions of HB5055 into an investigative body---although several sub-divisions of 9.1-601 are fulfilled by the body as it exists at present. If there are costs associated with this bill, it would fall into 3 categories. Category #1 would be if the re-branded civilian oversight body would require its own investigators, rather than relying on Internal Affairs. If that is the case, a civilian public safety investigator FTE would cost about \$60,000 including salary and fringe benefits. The second category of expenses would relate to 9.1-601(F), regarding legal counsel. It is possible that this civilian oversight body, depending on workload, maybe require the City to hire an additional public safety attorney. This would cost \$120,000, including salary and fringes. The 3rd category of costs would be stipends for the oversight body, given the possible extra workload that would be placed upon it. We estimate that this would be \$50 per meeting, with one month a meeting, or \$600 per member. Our current IRP has 7 members, so this cost would be \$4,200, but is subject to the decision of Council regarding adequate compensation and to the amount of meetings that would actually be held.

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**Locality:** Town of Ashland

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$200,000.00

Cost is due to staff time to support the body, associated expenses with the body convening, and legal counsel for the body. Unknown costs are impact to recruitment and retention.

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