

## Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1932

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

2. **Patron:** Levine

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

4. **Title:** Child-placing agencies; conscience clause; repeal.

5. **Summary:** Repeals provisions that allowed child-placing agencies to refuse to perform, assist with, counsel, recommend, consent to, refer, or participate in any child placements when the proposed placement would violate the agency's written religious or moral convictions or policies.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) is aware of eight licensed child-placing agencies that are faith-based and may invoke the conscience clause. Faith-based licensed child-placing agencies (LCPA) have approved 476 families that are currently caring for 372 of Virginia's children in foster care. Faith-based LCPA were operating in Virginia prior to § 63.2-1709.3 of the Code of Virginia going into effect in 2012; VDSS believes that this suggests that some faith-based LCPAs will continue to operate if this code section is repealed. Should some faith-based LCPA cease operations, foster and adoptive families could transition their home approval between LCPA or to local departments without any disruption of approval or placement of children. However, should the family choose not to transition to a new agency, some children's placements may be disrupted. VDSS does not expect that this change would have any significant impact on the availability of foster homes. According to the agency, this bill support its current best practices.

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

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.