

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB845H1

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: Krizek

3. Committee: House Committee on Appropriations

4. Title: Definition of law-enforcement officer; certain employees of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

5. Summary: The proposed legislation adds special agents employed by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Office of the Inspector General to the definition of law-enforcement officer and grants such the same authority and power as sheriffs throughout the Commonwealth to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The proposed legislation adds special agents employed by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Office of the Inspector General (WMATA OIG) to the definition of law-enforcement officer and grants such the same authority and power as sheriffs throughout the Commonwealth to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth. The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) is responsible for monitoring the training of over 22,000 law-enforcement officers. According to DCJS, the legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the agency operation.

According to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS), adding WMATA OIG special agents to the definition of law-enforcement officers would cover those special agents under the Line of Duty Act (LODA). The proposed annual LODA premium beginning in fiscal year 2021 is \$709.21 per employee. VRS reports that because the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Authority) is an extension of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission, created by a Compact among Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia, the Authority is a political subdivision of Virginia, and is therefore eligible as a VRS participating employer, although the Authority currently is not a participating employer. However, under the proposed legislation, VRS states that the Authority would become a participating employer and would be required to pay LODA premiums for its special agents, pursuant to the passage of this bill. VRS reports that eight WMATA OIG special agents would be covered under LODA.

While the WMATA is not a state agency and does not have an appropriation in the budget, it receives state funding from the Commonwealth Mass Transit Fund that is passed through to

the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission to support the operating and capital costs of WMATA. Therefore, any fiscal impact as a result of the proposed legislation would have to be absorbed into such existing resources, as well as any payments received from other members of the compact.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Criminal Justice Services; Virginia Retirement System.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.