

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1391

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Gooditis

3. **Committee:** Committee on Rules

4. **Title:** Social Media, Commission on; established, report.

5. **Summary:** Establishes the 20-member Commission on Social Media in the legislative branch to study and make recommendations on the impacts and harms to citizens caused by social media platforms hosting or amplifying content that includes threats or suggestions of physical violence or danger toward citizens, institutions, groups, associations, or physical structures of the Commonwealth. The Commission will study the impact on citizens of dangerous and violent rhetoric, threats, harassment, doxing, intimidation, misinformation, disinformation, defamation, and deceptive practices of social media companies. The Commission will also study the impact of certain practices by social media companies, such as algorithmic amplification and target advertising, on citizens. The bill requires the Commission to report annually to the General Assembly on its activities and provides that the Commission will sunset on July 1, 2026.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 1

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	\$23,120	0	General
2025	\$23,120	0	General
2026	\$23,120	0	General
2027	\$23,120	0	General
2028	\$23,120	0	General
2029	\$23,120	0	General
2030	\$23,120	0	General

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this bill primarily involves the costs associated with meetings. It is estimated the member compensation will be approximately \$6,000 for the House and \$3,600 for the Senate. This provides for five House members and three Senate members attending four meetings per year, the average number of meetings a commission of this nature usually involves, and will be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Clerk of the Senate. The travel expenses are expected to be \$6,200 for the

House and \$3,720 for the Senate, and will be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Clerk of the Senate. Compensation and travel expenses for the three nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates will be approximately \$1,800, and shall be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates. Compensation and travel expenses for the three nonlegislative citizen members appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules will be approximately \$1,800, and shall be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the Senate. If unfunded, the commission will be funded from the operating budgets of the House for the seven House members and three nonlegislative members, and of the Senate for the five Senate members, once approved by the Joint Rules Committee. There is no fiscal impact on the Division of Legislative Services (DLS) regarding staff for this entity because the support required can be absorbed with current staffing.

The Chief Data Officer, the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Chairman of the State Board of Elections, and the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services do not anticipate a fiscal impact from this legislation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The House of Delegates, the Senate of Virginia; the Division of Legislative Services; the Chief Data Officer; the Secretary of Commerce and Labor; the Secretary of Health and Human Resources; the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; the Chairman of the State Board of Elections; and the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None