

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2023 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB2175

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Sickles

**3. Committee:** Appropriations

**4. Title:** Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security; fire service needs, sustainability of funding.

**5. Summary:** Directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security (the Secretary) to establish a work group to study existing fire service needs, analyze sustainability of current funding, and review alternative funding models from other states. In conducting its study, the work group may hire an outside consultant and shall create a needs assessment survey that analyzes existing fire service needs, the sustainability of current funding, any gaps in current funding, how other states fund fire and emergency medical services, and best practices from other states. The Secretary shall report the work group's findings and any recommendations to the Chairmen of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2023.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 392.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Secretary's Office, to complete a study of this size and scope as outlined in the proposed bill would require subject matter expertise. The Department of Fire Programs reports that it does not have the resources or staff equipped to lead and support the workgroup and its mandate. Based on estimates of similar studies, the funding needed to contract with a third-party contractor is estimated to be up to \$125,000 general fund.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, Virginia Fire Services Council, Virginia's Regional EMS Councils, Virginia Fire Chiefs Association, Department of Fire Programs, Department of Planning and Budget, House Appropriations Committee, Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, and the Office of Emergency Medical Services under the Department of Health.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** Line 20, delete "EMS" and insert "emergency medical".

**11. Other Comments:** None.