

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 2933

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Miller, J.H.

3. Committee Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title Enforcement of immigration laws

5. Summary/Purpose:

The proposed bill would require the state to enter into an agreement with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to authorize the Department of State Police and the Department of Corrections to enforce civil immigration violations in Virginia.

6. Fiscal Impact: Not available. See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications:

Although it is not feasible to project the fiscal impact of this bill, it potentially could be significant. The Pew Hispanic Center has estimated the number of unauthorized immigrants living in the fifty states and the District of Columbia based on data from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a monthly survey conducted jointly by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Census Bureau. The Center's analysis of the March 2005 CPS revealed that there were an estimated 11.1 million unauthorized immigrants in the United States in 2005. Although precise estimates for each state could not be computed, the size of the unauthorized population in Virginia was projected to be between 250,000 and 300,000.

To effectively enforce the immigration laws for a population of that size would require a significant number of State Police troopers. The first-year cost of a new trooper is approximately \$131,600; the on-going annual cost is \$75,940. In addition, because federal immigration laws are complex and enforcing them requires special skills, the troopers designated for this duty would need additional training. It is not known at this time what this training would cost.

The bill would require that the Department of Corrections (DOC) also enter into an agreement to enforce immigration laws. It is assumed that this requirement would result in the Department of Corrections being responsible for housing any persons detained by the State Police for violations of the immigration laws. The state's prisons are now operating at full capacity. DOC would need to contract with local and regional jails to house those

persons detained for immigration law violations. The normal contract rate that DOC pays local and regional jails for housing state responsible inmates is \$28 per day.

It is possible that the federal government would reimburse the state for all or part of its costs incurred in enforcing the immigration laws. But, until the terms of any agreement are known, the fiscal impact for the state cannot be known.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Department of Corrections
Department of State Police

10. Technical amendment necessary: None.

11. Other comments: None.

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