

Department of Planning and Budget

2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 3020

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 Delegate Ward

3. Committee Education

4. Title Foster Care Scholarship Program

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill creates the Foster Care Scholarship Program to provide scholarships for eligible students who are aging out of the foster care system. To be eligible, students must be:

- domiciled residents of Virginia,
- recipients of foster care services at the time of their graduation from high school,
- graduates from a public or private high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a scale of 4.0, and
- good citizens, as defined by regulation of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Indeterminate (see Section 8)

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: Currently, there are approximately 8,100 children in the foster care program in Virginia. It is estimated that half are over the age of 11. The Department of Social Services does not maintain demographics on how many children are currently seniors in high school. The current cost to attend Virginia Community College is \$2,250 for tuition and mandatory fees. The average cost to attend a four year public institution is \$4,200. The cost would be substantially higher for private institutions. Costs do not include room, board, books and supplies.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: All state public and not for profit colleges and universities, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Department of Social Services, Foster Care Division.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: Funding for this program would ultimately be determined by how many children were exiting the foster care system, who met the academic requirements, wishing to

further their education. Exact numbers of students eligible could not be provided by the Department of Social Services. The Virginia Community College has a Foster Care scholarship program that awards scholarships to foster care students. They have approximately \$25,000 annually in this fund to award. The program has not been fully expended to date.

Date: 1/23/07/RSA

C: Secretary of Education