

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

- 1. Bill Number** HB 3145  
**House of Origin** ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House** ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled
- 2. Patron** Poisson
- 3. Committee** Education
- 4. Title** Waiver of tuition and required fees for eligible children and spouses of veterans and certain public safety personnel and certain foreign students.
- 5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill establishes a “Fund” to include such funds as may be appropriated and from such gifts, bequests, and any gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources, to support the Virginia Public Safety Officers Education Program, hereinafter “Program,” for the sole purpose of providing undergraduate or other postsecondary education free of (i) tuition and all required fees; (ii) institutional charges; (iii) general or college fees, or any charges by whatever term referred to; (iv) board and room rent; and (v) books and supplies at any public institution of higher education or other public accredited postsecondary institution granting a degree, diploma, or certificate in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the use and benefit of qualified public safety officers.
- 6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Indeterminate. See Item 8.
- 7. Budget amendment necessary:** Yes, Item 377.
- 8. Fiscal implications:** Based on preliminary information there are approximately 42,759 fire fighters, 37,546 law enforcement officers, and 23,766 Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, totaling over 104,000 individuals who could potentially be eligible under the program established by this legislation. Based on the criteria indicated in the bill, eligible employees would require five years of service with the Commonwealth. At this time, no data is available on how many individuals could meet this criterion. It is likely, though, that a significant number of the 104,000 individuals could utilize this program.
- The estimated cost of tuition, fees, room, board, books, and supplies at Virginia’s public institutions of higher education is estimated at \$14,000. The appropriation required would be \$1.4 million for each 100 employees granted approval by the Secretary of Public Safety. In addition, the Secretary of Public Safety may require additional staff to administer this program.
- 9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Secretary of Public Safety, Department of Accounts, all state agencies and local governments, or other government agencies employing public safety officers eligible under this provision.
- 10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** None.

**Date:** 1/31/07/RSA

C: Secretary of Education