

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB425

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed

Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Marshall

3. **Committee:** Rules

4. **Title:** Birth certificate required for admission to public institutions of higher education

5. **Summary:** Provides that each public institution in Virginia require first-time entering freshmen, upon admission, to submit a certified copy of their birth certificate, or an affidavit in the absence of the birth certificate, noting the place and country of birth. Students who fail to submit a certified birth certificate or an affidavit are ineligible for reduced in-state tuition and other state financial aid. Each institution must report this information, without disclosing personally identifiable information, on its website and to the State Council of Higher Education, and make written copies of the information available upon request. The Council must report the aggregate number of such students by place and country of birth on its website.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Unavailable, see item 8.

7. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** Cost to implement this legislation would depend on the specific college or university, and their current practice of requiring a birth certificate as a condition of enrollment. Public institutions that do not require birth certificates as a condition of enrollment, and have large student populations, would potentially see an increase in administrative costs, to file and protect such documents. Additional costs may be incurred by public colleges and universities, to determine the county of birth of students, versus citizenship status. Due to the large military presence in Virginia, many students in this state were born in U.S. military bases overseas, and, thus, would be tracked and counted differently than students born on U.S. soil, based on this legislation. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia estimates their initial cost to implement this program would be approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** All public colleges and universities, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** The cost to students (in Virginia) would be an additional \$12 each, if the college or university is required to retain that copy. Additional staff time would be required to verify and file the copy of the birth certificate, with costs varying at each institution. An impact may also be incurred by the Department of Health, Vital Records Division, to meet the requests of additional copies of birth certificates.

Date: 1/28/2008/rsa

C: Secretary of Education

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