

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1924

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Delegate Lewis

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Provide tuition grants to Virginia's commercial crab fishermen.

5. Summary: This bill provides tuition grants for any bona fide Virginia resident who:

- is a Virginia waterman holding a valid Virginia commercial crabbing license that has incurred adverse economic impacts as determined by the United States Department of Commerce Blue Crab Commercial Fishery Failure Declaration;
- is enrolled or has been accepted for enrollment in a degree or certificate program of at least one academic year in length in a public two-year institution of higher education in the Commonwealth;
- has not been enrolled in postsecondary education as a full-time student for more than three years;
- has submitted applications for federal student financial aid programs for which he may be eligible; and
- is not in default of a federal educational loan or student loan made or guaranteed by the Commonwealth.

Regulations governing these grants will be established by the State Board of Community Colleges, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education and the Department of Social Services. This bill is contingent upon funds from the federal relief package associated with the United States Department of Commerce Blue Crab Commercial Fishery Failure Declaration being made available to cover the cost of these tuition grants.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Section 8)

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: Minimal. Given that the State Board of Community Colleges will be establishing the regulations for these grants, any administrative costs associated with the implementation and disbursement of these tuition grants should be absorbed by the individual community colleges in the same way that other financial aid is handled. Since the proposed legislation is contingent upon anticipated federal funding, no other costs are expected for the Commonwealth.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Community College System, State Council of Higher Education in Virginia, and the Department of Social Services

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Governor Kaine announced in November 2008 that the United States Department of Commerce had agreed to make up to \$10 million available to the Commonwealth in response to the blue crab commercial fishery failure determination issued in September.

Date: 1/19/2009 sas

Document: f:\ga sessions\2009\fiscal impact statements\hb1924.doc

cc: Secretary of Education