

## Department of Planning and Budget 2010 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1011

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

**2. Patron:**        Athey

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:**            Authorization for the Virginia Community College System to establish baccalaureate degrees in specific fields of study

**5. Summary:** Authorizes the Virginia Community College System to establish programs and grant baccalaureate degrees in nursing, education, applied technology, and other high needs areas to be determined by the Virginia Community College System.

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

**7. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 203.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is estimated that the costs of this bill would be at least \$6,700 (based on the average state support for in-state undergraduate students) for each student enrolled in a baccalaureate program. This excludes start-up costs of facilities, computers, administration, and the operation and maintenance of facilities and equipment. Additional highly specialized faculty would need to be recruited, which may impact other colleges' and universities' faculty. The faculty in the specified curriculum is in high demand, and new programs could potentially increase competition with other institutions for faculty. Based on information provided by SCHEV, it is estimated the total general fund amount required would be approximately \$7.5 million the first year, and \$14 million the second year. This includes recruitment and hiring of faculty, student recruitment, and equipment purchase and retrofitting classrooms for higher level courses. Additional tuition and fees would only offset a small portion of the anticipated costs.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Community College System, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV).

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

**11. Other Comments:** In addition to the fiscal requirements and approval by SCHEV, the Virginia Community Colleges would be required to meet all the accreditation requirements as put forth by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for each of the 23 community colleges that elected to pursue four-year degree programs. This could also replicate services and programs offered in with the state supported higher education centers that also offer several baccalaureate programs in high demand areas.