

## Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB577-ER

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Bell, Richard P.

**3. Committee:** Passed both houses

**4. Title:** Teachers of online courses and college partnership laboratory schools; background checks.

**5. Summary:** Clarifies that teachers of online courses and virtual programs and in college partnership laboratory schools shall, as a condition of employment requiring direct contact with students, provide written consent and the necessary personal information to obtain a search of the registry of founded complaints of child abuse and neglect maintained by the Department of Social Services.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final. See item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This legislation requires that teachers and administrators of online courses and virtual programs, along with teachers working in a college partnership laboratory school, must undergo background checks pursuant to § 22.1-296.4, *Code of Virginia*. This section of the Code requires that, as a condition of employment in a position requiring direct contact with students, applicants must provide written consent and the necessary personal information for a search of the Central Registry, which is maintained by the Department of Social Services (DSS). Currently, DSS charges a fee to most applicants to search the Central Registry. The fee covers the majority of the cost involved in performing the search.

If this legislation is approved, DSS could incur some additional expenses related to the processing of additional searches; however, it is anticipated that any such costs could either be absorbed within current resources or passed on by way of fees to the division requesting the search. Consequently, it is anticipated that there could also be some additional costs for local school divisions related to the additional background searches required by this legislation; however, at the discretion of the local school board, the applicant may be required to pay for the cost of any search conducted pursuant to § 22.1-296.4, *Code of Virginia*.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Social Services and local school divisions.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.

**Date:** 2/22/2012

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