

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1609

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Hugo

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Higher education; mental health treatment coordination.

5. Summary: Requires the governing board of each public institution of higher education to establish a written memorandum of understanding with their local community services board or behavioral health authority, local hospitals, and other local mental health facilities in order to coordinate the care of current students. Each institution of higher education shall designate a contact person to be notified when a student is involuntarily committed, or when a student is discharged from a facility and he consents to such notification. Each memorandum shall include the institution of higher education in the post-discharge planning of a student who has been committed, to the extent allowable under state and federal privacy laws.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: Most four year public colleges and universities have on staff, counselors and therapists, and the ability to make arrangements with local mental health providers to coordinate the care of current students, should they be identified to the college or university and not be able to provide that care. The Virginia Community College System has arrangements with local community services boards, since they do not have the facilities or funding to provide any ongoing out-patient mental health care. It is assumed there would be negligible costs to establish the memorandums of understanding. It is uncertain, if in some cases, a college or university may be required to hire additional staff to follow through with this requirement. Since all mental health commitments, either voluntary or involuntary, are subject to strict privacy laws, the college or university's ability to follow up with any student and their post-discharge planning or future intervention is difficult to determine.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: All state colleges and universities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: January 15, 2013
C: Secretary of Education