

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB1290

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Partial Tuition Waiver for Dependents of University and College Faculty

5. Summary/Purpose: Establishes the Dependent Children of University and College Faculty Reduced Tuition Program and Fund, to provide 50 percent tuition waivers for the children of current full-time faculty members who have been employed full-time by any one or more public Virginia college or university for an aggregate period of at least seven years. The tuition waivers shall be used for undergraduate education at any public institution of higher education in Virginia. This would create a new fund within the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. It should be noted that the provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed during the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly that becomes law.

6. Budget amendment necessary: Yes, Item 144. The provisions of this legislation will not go into effect without funding support.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Indeterminate, see item 8.

8. Fiscal implications: The average cost of mandatory tuition and fees at four year institutions is approximately \$9,915. The average cost at the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and Richard Bland College is \$4,030. Based on the criteria listed above, for every 10 students meeting the criteria, \$49,575 would be required for four year institutions and \$20,150 for students attending VCCS or Richard Bland College each year. For each qualified faculty member, an estimated \$19,830 would be required for four years at a four year institution per dependent, and \$4,030 for two years at a community college or Richard Bland College.

There are currently approximately 6,500 faculty members at Virginia's public colleges and institutions. The number of faculty who would qualify for this program is unknown.

Because this legislation creates a fund dedicated to this program, it is unclear if general fund support is anticipated. The legislation does specify funding from "such gifts, grants donations, bequests and other funds." It is also not clear who the source of the gifts and donations would be. If no funds are donated or provided by the state, the higher education institutions would be absorbing the cost of providing a tuition subsidy to children of faculty members. The provisions of this act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed during the 2013 Regular Session of the General Assembly that becomes law.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; all state colleges and universities.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 1/21/13;
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C: Secretary of Education