

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1598

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

2. Patron: Watts

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act, General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; prohibited gifts; civil penalty.

5. Summary: The bill provides that, for purposes of the prohibition against acceptance of certain items that reasonably tend to influence official duties, any money, loan, gift, favor, service, or business or professional opportunity that is accepted by a member of the immediate family of an officer or employee of a state or local governmental or advisory agency or a member of the General Assembly shall be considered to have been accepted by the officer, employee, or member of the General Assembly if (i) such money, loan, gift, favor, service, or business or professional opportunity was accepted or retained with his knowledge and acquiescence, and (ii) he knows or has reason to know that such money, loan, gift, favor, service, or business or professional opportunity was given to the member of his immediate family because of his official position. First violations of this provision are subject to the existing penalties of § 2.2-3124 and § 30-126, while a second or subsequent violation within a calendar year is subject to a civil penalty of no less than \$2,500.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. The bill specifies new stipulations related to prohibited conduct, but there is no way to determine how often violations may occur. The bill also establishes a \$2,500 civil penalty for repeat offenders, but there is no way to determine the frequency of occurrences.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: All state and local agencies and political subdivisions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None