

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2110

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: Futrell

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Scholarships for military dependents, spouses, and surviving spouses.

5. Summary: Establishes the Dependent Student, Spouse and Surviving Spouse, and Spouse of Disabled Veteran Scholarship Programs and permits the Virginia Department of Veterans Services to award renewable scholarships for the full amount of tuition, fees, and books to each dependent or non-dependent student who meets certain criteria and whose parent or spouse, while serving in active duty during military operations, died, disappeared, was imprisoned, or became disabled under certain circumstances.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 142 and Item 463.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Veterans Services (DVS), there are currently 126,280 veterans in the Commonwealth rated at 20 percent disability or higher. The average cost is \$12,000 per year per student for tuition/institutional charges/fees/books (as covered by the bill), which includes the community colleges. Given the age of the veteran population and the limits imposed by the bill (age 27 for non-spouse dependents), there are approximately 97,880 eligible veterans with dependents at or under age 27. For every 100 students who would qualify for this benefit, the cost could be \$1.2 million.

DVS Benefits adjudicates the eligibility for the program and would require an estimated three additional positions. With an average salary of \$40,000 per year with benefits and other ancillary costs (VITA, etc.), the total cost would be approximately \$218,000.

There is no way to determine how many dependents would qualify and elect to participate in this program.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: All colleges and universities, Department of Veterans Services, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and the agency assigned to administer this program.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The legislation indicates the funds would be from bequests, and any gifts, grants, or donations from public or private sources, but does not address how the funds would be solicited.