

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1342

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: Puller

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Residential Improved Accessibility and Universal Visitability Grant Fund and Program, established

5. Summary: This bill establishes a grant program for homeowners and contractors for the purchase or construction of new residences or renovations to existing residences designed to improve accessibility or to provide universal visitability. The grant program would be administered by the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development. Subject to the appropriation of funds by the General Assembly, the Director would be authorized to award up to \$1.0 million in grants each fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2017, of which the Director would allocate 50 percent for the purchase or construction of new residences and 50 percent for the retrofitting or renovation of existing residences. The maximum grant allowed would be (i) \$5,000 for the purchase or construction of a new residence or (ii) 50 percent of the amount expended, but not to exceed \$5,000, for the retrofitting or renovation of an existing residence.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No, as grants would be paid beginning in FY 2017. See item 8.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill establishes a new grant program and fund, the Residential Improved Accessibility and Universal Visitability Grant Fund, that will be administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The bill provides that the new program is subject to appropriation by the General Assembly. The provisions of the bill indicate that the Director would be authorized to award up to \$1.0 million in grants each fiscal year beginning in FY 2017. To capitalize the fund, an appropriation will be required.

DHCD is charged with developing guidelines to implement the program. Implementation of the program will require the agency to reprogram its grants management software system (CAMS) to accommodate the new program. The department estimates that the costs associated with program development and updates to CAMS to be approximately \$3,500. The department can absorb these costs within existing program resources as many aspects of the program design would be similar to the credit and grant components of current programs.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Housing and Community Development.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.