

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB735

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Marsden

3. Committee: Rules

4. Title: General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act; prohibited conduct related to travel.

5. Summary: This bill prohibits members of the General Assembly from accepting any lodging, transportation, hospitality, or other travel-related thing of value with an aggregate value in excess of \$250 from any lobbyist, lobbyist's principal, or person, organization, or business who is a party to or is seeking to become a party to a contract with the Commonwealth, prior to submitting to the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (the Council) a request to accept such thing of value and receiving approval of the request. The bill requires the Council to approve such a request where at least 90 percent of the travel is dedicated to the purpose of economic development, diplomacy, trade relations, or education or is in furtherance of carrying out duties imposed by statute or the work of any standing committee of the General Assembly or legislative interim study commission or committee.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015			
2016	\$96,000	1	General Fund
2017	\$96,000	1	General Fund
2018	\$96,000	1	General Fund
2018	\$96,000	1	General Fund
2020	\$96,000	1	General Fund
2021	\$96,000	1	General Fund

8. Fiscal Implications: The Division of Legislative Services (DLS) is directed by Code to staff the Council as established in the 2014 Session of the General Assembly. By veto, the Governor removed all funding to the Council, so none of the assigned responsibilities are currently funded. DLS states that the agency would not be able to absorb the costs of the new duties presented by this bill. DLS estimates an additional position and roughly \$96,000 funding annually will be needed to support these new requirements.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: General Assembly members.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Yes.