

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 911

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

2. Patron: Wexton, Jennifer T.

3. Committee: Rehabilitation and Social Services

4. Title: Child welfare agencies; annual background checks required for employees and volunteers

5. Summary: The proposed legislation requires annual background checks for employees and volunteers of child welfare agencies. Under current law, background checks are required only at the time of initial employment. The bill provides that such background checks must include, among other existing requirements, a sworn statement or affirmation disclosing whether the person is currently the subject of a complaint of child abuse or neglect.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary:

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2015	-	-	-
2016	1,496,593	23.0	Special
2017	1,395,659	23.0	Special
2018	1,395,659	23.0	Special
2019	1,395,659	23.0	Special
2020	1,395,659	23.0	Special
2021	1,395,659	23.0	Special

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation requires annual criminal history checks and central registry checks for employees and volunteers in licensed and registered child welfare agencies. Child welfare agencies include child day centers, child placing agencies, children's residential facilities, family day homes, family day systems, and independent foster homes. Background checks are currently required every two to three years for individuals working and volunteering in these facilities. Criminal history record checks are currently processed by the Virginia State Police, while DSS processes central registry searches to determine if individuals have founded Child Protective Services (CPS) complaints. By increasing the frequency with which background checks must be completed, this bill thereby increases the number of background checks required annually.

Department of Social Services

The Department estimates that approximately 183,375 additional central registry searches will be required annually based on the provisions of this bill. Additional staff is needed to handle this increased volume of central registry searches. It is estimated that each additional central registry staff person can process approximately 11,700 central registry searches annually. Based on this, 16 (183,375/11,700) additional full time program support technicians with an average salary of \$32,022 and two supervisor positions with an average salary of \$41,685 are needed. Non-personnel services, which includes rent, telephone, computer costs and travel, are estimated at \$14,368 in the first year and \$9,205 each year thereafter for each full-time staff person. The total annual cost for the additional central registry staff is estimated to be \$1,183,770 in FY 2016 and \$1,090,836 each year thereafter. It is presumed that DSS will be allowed to establish a central registry search fee sufficient to fully cover its processing and administrative costs.

Virginia State Police

The State Police estimate that they would need five additional employees as well as office space and equipment associated with each new employee to support this legislation. The State Police estimate the cost of these positions to be \$312,823 the first year and \$304,823 each year thereafter.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:

Department of Social Services
Virginia State Police

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None

Date: 2/2/15