

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB494

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

**2. Patron:** Marshall, R.G.

**3. Committee:** General Laws

**4. Title:** Assisting federal government with resettling of certain refugees.

**5. Summary:** Provides that no agency of the Commonwealth, political subdivision of the Commonwealth, officer or employee of either acting in his official capacity, or member of the Virginia National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, when such member is serving in the Virginia National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force on official state duty, shall knowingly aid, participate with, or otherwise provide any assistance to (i) any agency, department, or other instrumentality of the federal government, or any employee or officer thereof, with the resettlement in the Commonwealth of any refugee from Iraq or Syria or (ii) any such refugee who has been resettled in the Commonwealth on or after January 1, 2016. The bill allows such aid, participation, or assistance if (a) the refugee has been subjected to thorough background investigations sufficient to determine whether the refugee is a threat to the security of the United States conducted by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and (b) the Secretary of the DHS, with the concurrence of the Director of the FBI and the Director of National Intelligence, has certified that the refugee is not a threat to the security of the United States.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact this bill will have on the Commonwealth cannot be determined at this time and any fiscal implications are preliminary. The Department of Health (VDH) receives \$1,946,054 in federal funds from the Department of Social Services (DSS) to cover staff costs and reimbursements to health districts for refugee health screenings. VDH also receives \$125,000 as a federal grant for health education and mental health services for refugees, which includes provision of funds to Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS). Neither the agreement with DSS nor the notice of the award for the federal grant address what would happen if services were denied for some refugees; although typically loss of funding or restrictions on funds occur when an entity fails to perform services agreed to in a grant or contract. Therefore a potential loss of up to \$2,071,054, impacting services to all refugees, may occur.

It is important to note that the bill does not prevent refugees from Syria and Iraq from resettling in Virginia. Therefore, these individuals may reside in Virginia but would not receive important health screenings and mental health services. In addition, all refugees may be similarly affected if contract and grant funds are lost due to failure to provide agreed upon services. In the event that these public health impacts are realized, there would also be a fiscal impact on VDH and localities though that impact cannot be estimated at this time.

The Department of State Police, Department of Social Services, and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services have stated this bill will not impact agency operations.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Department of Health, Department of State Police, Department of Social Services, and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** HB852, introduced by Delegate Hugo, is similar to this bill.