

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB288

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: DeSteph

3. Committee: Rules

4. Title: State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act; advisory opinions for local officers.

5. Summary: The bill removes the provision that allows a county, city, or town attorney to issue to a local officer or employee an advisory opinion that would shield that officer or employee from future prosecution for knowing violations of the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act. An advisory opinion issued by the attorney for the Commonwealth or the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council (the Council) will still shield the officer or employee from such prosecution. The bill provides that an advisory opinion issued to a local officer or employee by his county, city, or town attorney may be introduced at a trial for a knowing violation as evidence that he did not knowingly violate the Act.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: None.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: No fiscal impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Division of Legislative Services, who provides legal and other staffing support to the Council, states that the legal ramifications of this bill do not present any fiscal implications to the Commonwealth.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Local county and city government employees and officers; the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.