

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB608ER

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

2. Patron: Reeves

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Confiscation, reporting, and return of firearms by law enforcement.

5. Summary: The proposal requires a law-enforcement agency that confiscates a firearm in connection with a criminal investigation, or otherwise recovers a firearm, to immediately take all appropriate steps to identify and trace the history of such firearm. It also provides that all law-enforcement agencies of the Commonwealth and of political subdivisions of the Commonwealth must share with other Virginia law-enforcement agencies all information regarding firearms seized, forfeited, found, or otherwise coming into the agency's possession that are believed to have been used in the commission of a crime and shall enter such information into a firearms tracing system maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice. Additionally, the bill requires law-enforcement agencies to return stolen firearms to the rightful owner unless the person is prohibited from possessing the firearm or it is needed in a criminal prosecution.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of State Police (Department), the services of the firearms electronic tracing system (E-TRACE), maintained by the U.S. Department of Justice, is provided free of charge to participating law enforcement agencies. In order to use the system, a law enforcement agency must sign a memorandum of understanding with the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) National Tracing Center.

According to the Department, returning stolen firearms is a standard operating practice and any anticipated cost is minimal. The fiscal impact on local law enforcement agencies is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police, and local law enforcement.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: None.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 2/24/2016-SB608.doc (LAJ)