

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB681

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: Pogge

3. Committee: Militia, Police and Public Safety

4. Title: Nonresident concealed handgun permits; time of issuance.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of State Police to issue a concealed handgun permit to a nonresident within 45 days of receipt of the nonresident's completed application unless it determines that he is disqualified. The bill provides that the Department shall certify the nonresident's application as a de facto concealed handgun permit, which is effective for a period of 90 days after issuance, if the Department has not issued the permit or determined that the nonresident is disqualified within that 45-day period.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill requires the Department of State Police (VSP) to issue a concealed handgun permit to a nonresident within 45 days of receipt of the application. In 2017, VSP received a federal grant to automate many of the processes of its VCheck system. The VCheck system is used to process and approve concealed weapon permits applications. The agency expects the automation capabilities to be fully implemented in two years. However, currently, the approval process for concealed weapon permits applications are completed manually. The manual process includes opening and distributing mailed applications, reviewing applications for completeness, collecting and transmitting fees, transmitting fingerprint data for screening, performing queries of Virginia and out-of-state criminal records, analysis of criminal records to determine a person's eligibility to possess a firearm, and the creation and issuance of a permit.

Current turnaround times for the manual process are 120-150 days. Seven (six full-time and one part-time) employees are devoted to processing these applications. According to VSP, it receives about 5,900 applications from nonresidents per year on average. The proposed legislation requires VSP to issue a concealed handgun permit to a nonresident within 45 days of receipt of the nonresident's completed application unless it determines that person is disqualified. If VSP has not issued the permit or determined that the applicant is disqualified within 45 days of the date of receipt noted on the application, the agency would be required to certify on the application that the 45-day period has expired and mail or send via electronic mail a copy of the certified application to the applicant within five business days of the expiration of the 45-day period. The certified application would serve as a de facto permit,

which would expire 90 days after issuance, and be recognized as a valid concealed handgun permit. According to VSP, they would need additional staff to process these applications within the timeframe set out in the provisions of the proposed legislation. However, it is not feasible at this time to determine the precise staff level required to process these applications within 45 days. The ongoing cost for salary and benefits for a Program Support Technician is \$69,576, and the salary and benefits for a Program Support Technician Senior is \$71,055.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.