

Department of Planning and Budget 2018 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1671

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

2. Patron: Mullin

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Child abuse and neglect; investigation of an individual by local boards of social services.

5. Summary: Requires local boards of social services, when investigating an individual who is the subject of child abuse or neglect allegations, to obtain and consider a search of the child abuse and neglect central registry, or equivalent registry, of any state in which the individual has resided within the preceding five years.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2019	-	-	-
2020	\$175,456	-	General
	\$69,375	1	Special
2021	\$175,456	-	General
	\$69,375	1	Special
2022	\$175,456	-	General
	\$69,375	1	Special
2023	\$175,456	-	General
	\$69,375	1	Special
2024	\$175,456	-	General
	\$69,375	1	Special
2025	\$175,456	-	General
	\$69,375	1	Special

* This bill requires an annual local match of \$32,184.

8. Fiscal Implications: This legislation adds language requiring each local department of social services (LDSS) to obtain and consider statewide criminal history records and child abuse and neglect registry records of any individual who is the alleged abuser or neglecter in a Child Protective Services (CPS) investigation. Additionally, the bill requires the LDSS to

inquire if the alleged abuser or neglecter in a CPS investigation has resided in another state within the last five years. If the alleged abuser or neglecter has resided in another state within the last five years, the LDSS shall request a search of the child abuse or neglect registry in that state.

Currently, CPS investigators have the option of obtaining and considering statewide criminal history records and child abuse and neglect registry records on an individual who is the subject of a CPS investigation in order to aid in assessing child safety when there is evidence of abuse or neglect. This legislation will mandate that local departments obtain and consider the criminal and child abuse histories of every individual who is the subject of a CPS investigation.

The data on the number of searches currently being completed for CPS investigations is unknown. However, it is presumed that the number of current search requests are small. For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that each of these investigations would have at least one alleged abuser/neglector. In FY 2018 there were 10,382 CPS investigations conducted by local departments of social services. The current cost incurred by a LDSS for a criminal history check through the Virginia State Police is \$20. Assuming a need for 10,382 new checks, the annual cost of these checks would be \$207,640 ($\$20 \times 10,382$). General fund in the amount of \$175,456 and \$32,184 in local match (15.5 percent) is needed to pay for checks resulting from this legislation. In addition, when the alleged abuser discloses he has lived in another state during the past five years, the investigator will need to request a search of the child abuse or neglect registry in that state. According to the Department of Social Services, most states do not require a fee for these checks, so the agency believes that the fees paid by LDSS to other states will be minimal and can be absorbed within the current appropriation.

Currently, each staff person in the Office of Background Investigations (OBI) can analyze approximately 11,000 checks annually. Because of the required increase in background checks under this bill, OBI will need to hire one additional central registry staff to process the additional 10,382 checks. Special fund appropriation of \$69,375 can be used to fund the salary, benefits, and operational costs of this employee. According to the agency, current central registry search fee revenue can cover the costs of this position.

The total estimated cost for this bill is \$277,015 split between general fund (\$175,456), local funds (\$32,184), and special funds (\$69,375).

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, Virginia State Police

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.