

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1735

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

2. Patron: Robinson

3. Committee: Rules

4. Title: Establishment of the Commission on Student Behavioral Health.

5. Summary: The bill establishes the Commission on Student Behavioral Health as a legislative branch commission. The purpose of the Commission shall be to (i) assess the efficacy of developing and implementing a statewide behavioral health and suicide prevention hotline that students may use to report threats of violence or receive real-time counseling services; (ii) review the current school counselor-to-student ratio, and whether the realignment of counseling responsibilities proposed by the House Select Committee on School Safety is improving schools' ability to provide counseling services to students; (iii) review the current roles and responsibilities of school nurses, psychologists, and social workers in schools and determine whether a realignment of responsibilities could improve or streamline behavioral health services offered to students; (iv) evaluate the efficacy and costs of providing enhanced behavioral health services in schools delivered through partnerships established between school divisions and local departments of social services and community services boards; (v) assess the effectiveness of de-escalation and other alternative disciplinary policies when interacting with students suffering from behavioral health challenges; (vi) examine the value of additional teacher training requirements on student behavioral health, such as mental health first aid; and (vii) examine other topics related to student behavioral health identified by the Commission. The Commission will consist of 12 members as follows: seven members of the House of Delegates, of whom two are to be members of the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions, two will be members of the House Committee on Education, two will be members of the House Committee on Appropriations, and one will be a member at-large, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and five members of the Senate, of whom two shall be members of the Senate Committee on Education and Health, two shall be members of the Senate Committee on Finance, and one will be a member at-large, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2021.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, an appropriation will be needed to cover the costs identified in items 7 and 8 below.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	\$135,100	1	General
2021	\$135,100	1	General

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this bill primarily involves the costs associated with compensation of members, meetings and staff support. The Senate of Virginia anticipates their portion of member compensation, meeting and staffing costs each year will be approximately \$6,000, while the House of Delegates costs are approximately \$8,400. These costs are based on the 12 legislative members attending four meetings, the average number of meetings a commission of this nature usually involves. The cost to the House and Senate may be less if an appropriation is provided to the new commission. The Division of Legislative Services (DLS) states that the bill has no staffing impact on the agency as the bill creates a legislative Commission that is separate and independent, and not under the supervision of DLS. The bill provides that the Commission “may” appoint or employ an executive director and DLS indicates an executive director, if hired, and based on their experience with such hirings for commissions, would run approximately \$120,700 for salary plus benefits. The costs in item 7a assume this cost.
- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions affected:** The House of Delegates; The Senate of Virginia.
- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.
- 11. Other Comments:** None.