

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB137ER

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: Collins

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Guardians ad litem for children

5. Summary: The substitute bill provides that in any matter in which the court appoints a guardian ad litem to represent a child, such guardian ad litem shall conduct an investigation in accordance with the Standards to Govern Performance of Guardians Ad Litem for Children established by the Judicial Council of Virginia.

The bill also requires that prior to the commencement of the dispositional hearing on any such matter, the guardian ad litem must file with the court, with a copy to all attorneys representing parties to such matter and all parties proceeding pro se in such matter, a certification of the guardian ad litem's compliance with the Standards to Govern the Performance of Guardians Ad Litem for Children established by the Judicial Council of Virginia, specifically addressing compliance with such standards requiring face-to-face contact with the child in such certification.

Lastly, the bill requires the guardian ad litem to document the hours spent satisfying such face-to-face contact, which will be compensated at the same rate as that for in-court service.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final (see Item #8)

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court ("OES"), this bill is expected to have a minimal impact on the Criminal Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None