

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB383

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:** Convirs-Fowler

**3. Committee:** House Committee on Education

**4. Title:** Law Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Fund and Program

**5. Summary:** The bill creates the Law-Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Fund and requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish the Law-Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants from the Fund on a competitive basis to local law-enforcement agencies to cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees at a public institution of higher education for up to two years for any law-enforcement officer employed by such agency who enters into an agreement to continue to serve as a law-enforcement officer for such agency upon completion of his course of study for a period at least as long as the length of the course of study undertaken and paid for pursuant to the Program. The Fund and Program replace a similar provision of current law whereby the Department of Criminal Justice Services enters into contracts to make payments directly to certain public and private institutions of higher education to cover the cost of tuition, books, and mandatory fees for state and local law-enforcement officers who enroll in a program of study relating to their law-enforcement duties. The bill requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to report to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education, the Senate Committee on Finance, and the Senate Committee on Education and Health no later than September 1, 2024, on the funding, utilization, and effectiveness of the Fund and Program. The bill has an expiration date of July 1, 2025

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 406.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

**8. Fiscal and Operational Implications:** The proposed legislation amends § 23.1-602 of the *Code of Virginia* to create the Law Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Fund and Program. The Officer Tuition Grant Fund would be a special non-reverting fund, used specifically to fund grants made pursuant to the Law Enforcement Officer Tuition Grant Program, which disburses grants on a competitive basis for up to two years. To remain eligible, law-enforcement officers would be required to maintain employment with the agency for a time period equal to the length of the paid course of study. The proposed legislation also mandates full repayment of any grant should the officer fail to complete the term of service any courses be failed. The Department of Criminal Justice Services is required to provide a report no later than September 1, 2024 regarding the funding, utilization, and effectiveness of the program.

The proposed legislation expires on July, 1 2025. The proposed legislation creates a new grant program for the DCJS to administer. DCJS reports that it currently does not administer any tuition reimbursement programs and would need to develop guidelines for this program. If funded, the amount of funding that would be requested and processed from the Fund is unknown at this time. DCJS expects that if funded, the workload may require a part-time employee to ensure that the new initiative is managed and that reporting requirements are met. DCJS reports that, based on the average hourly rate of an existing grant monitor (\$28.85/hour), as well as overhead costs, the fiscal impact to the agency is expected to be \$55,000 annually.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Department of Criminal Justice Services, the State Treasurer, State Comptroller, local law enforcement agencies, and law enforcement officers.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.