

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB475S1

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Mullin

**3. Committee:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary

**4. Title:** Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordination Program

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation establishes the Virginia sexual assault forensic examiner coordination program within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. The bill provides that the program shall create and coordinate an annual statewide sexual assault forensic nurse examiner training program; coordinate the development and enhancement of sexual assault forensic examiner programs across the Commonwealth; coordinate the development of hospital protocols and guidelines for treatment of survivors of sexual assault; coordinate and strengthen communications among sexual assault nurse examiner medical directors, sexual assault response teams, and hospitals for existing and developing sexual assault nurse examiner programs; provide technical assistance for existing and developing sexual assault forensic examiner programs; establish best practices for billing and reimbursement for medical services provided to survivors of sexual assault; create and maintain a statewide list, updated biannually, that includes pertinent information regarding sexual assault forensic examiners and nurse examiners; create sexual assault nurse examiner recruitment materials for universities and colleges with nursing programs; and support and coordinate community education and public outreach, when appropriate, relating to sexual assault nurse examiner issues for the Commonwealth. The proposed legislation also includes reporting requirements, pertaining to a feasibility plan for the establishment of centers of excellence as a model to increase the availability of sexual assault exam services, to be submitted to the Chairmen of the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by January 1, 2022.

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

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation establishes a sexual assault forensic examiner coordination program within the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), and a new position to coordinate the program. The bill also delineates 11 responsibilities of the new program coordinator (Coordinator), and it establishes the Coordinator's authority and subsequent reporting requirements. DCJS reports that this new position established under the proposed legislation will cost the Department \$131,174, which consists of \$80,000 in salary costs, benefits and personnel costs. Additionally, DCJS states that it cannot determine at this time whether or not the duties and responsibilities specified in the proposed legislation

can be fulfilled by one position, and therefore, DCJS reports that additional staffing may be necessary in the future. Furthermore, DCJS reports that, based on past experience, it will cost the agency approximately \$18,000 annually to conduct the annual statewide sexual assault forensic nursing training as required in the proposed legislation.

The other agencies named in the proposed legislation (the Attorney General, Department of Health, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Education, school divisions, and the State Council of Higher Education) do not anticipate a fiscal impact.

The version passed by the Senate also includes an enactment clause stating that the provisions of the proposed act shall not become effective unless an appropriation effectuating the purposes of it is included in a general appropriation act passed in 2020 by the General Assembly that becomes law.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Criminal Justice Services; Office of the Attorney General; Department of Health; Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is identical to SB373ES1.