

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB809

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

2. Patron: Delaney

3. Committee: Health, Welfare, and Institutions

4. Title: Child abuse and neglect; valid report or complaint; alleged abuser.

5. Summary: Requires a local department of social services to conduct an investigation or family assessment when, among other things, a report or complaint of child abuse or neglect is received in which the alleged abuser (i) is the child's relative by blood, marriage, or adoption; (ii) is the child's caretaker or has supervisory control over such child; or (iii) resides or is regularly present in the same household as the child. The bill also amends the definition of "abused or neglected child" to accommodate this directive. Under current law, local departments are only required to conduct an investigation or family assessment when the alleged abuser is the child's parent or other caretaker.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	-	-	-
2021	\$16,616,573	-	General fund
2022	\$15,746,643	-	General fund
2023	\$15,746,643	-	General fund
2024	\$15,746,643	-	General fund
2025	\$15,746,643	-	General fund
2026	\$15,746,643	-	General fund

*A local match of \$3,048,010 is required in FY 2021 and a local match of \$2,888,438 is required in FY 2022 and thereafter.

8. Fiscal Implications: Current law allows the Department of Social Services (DSS) child protective services (CPS) to conduct a family assessment or investigation only if the alleged abuser has a "caretaker" relationship to the child. For non-caretaker alleged abuse cases, only law enforcement takes further action on the alleged abuse. This legislation expands the authority of the social services system to serve additional children. The bill expands the

number of investigations or family assessments conducted to include valid reports or complaints against a non-caretaker individual.

In 2019, 16 percent or 8,260 reports of child abuse and neglect in Virginia were screened out because the alleged abuser or neglecter did not meet the caretaker criteria. DSS data suggests that 47 percent of those reports potentially would be subject to this legislation. DSS estimates that with the passage of this legislation, a similar number of reports will now require an assessment or investigation beyond the initial work completed to confirm the report's validity. Therefore, under this bill, approximately 3,882 ($8,260 \times 47\%$) new assessments or investigations will be needed annually.

For the purposes of this analysis, the total projected annual costs for all new employees of local departments of social services (LDSS) are based on average salaries, benefits, and non-personal services expenses such as rent, technology, and telephone service. The averages are based on expenses of current employees in similar positions and are estimated at \$89,182 for a CPS worker and \$116,672 for a family services supervisor. First year costs also include on-boarding expenses of \$5,163 per full-time equivalent employee.

Considering all of the requirements to respond to a valid referral, DSS estimates that each CPS assessment or investigation requires an average of 50 hours to respond. Therefore, 194,110 additional local staff hours ($3,882 \text{ cases} \times 50 \text{ hours per case}$) will be required to validate these reports. Given an average of 1,500 productive hours per local staff annually, the equivalent of 129.4 ($194,110/1,500$) additional local departmental staff are required. Total estimated annual costs for new CPS staff to respond to additional reports or referrals are \$12,208,243 ($[\$89,182 + \$5,163] \times 129.4$) in FY 2021 and \$11,540,151 ($\$89,182 \times 129.4$) beginning in FY 2022.

Furthermore, DSS estimates that 15 percent, or 582, of those 3,882 assessments or investigations will require on-going case management by local staff. With a ratio of approximately 15 cases for every CPS worker, the equivalent of an additional 39 ($582/15$) CPS workers are needed. Total estimated annual costs for new CPS staff to provide on-going case management are \$3,679,455 ($[\$89,182 + \$5,163] \times 39$) in FY 2021 and \$3,478,098 ($\$89,182 \times 39$) beginning in FY 2022.

In addition, each family services supervisor oversees approximately 5.5 case workers. Therefore, with 168.4 ($129.4 + 39$) new local CPS staff, the LDSS will also need 31 ($168 / 5.5$) new supervisors. Total estimated annual costs for new family services supervisors are \$3,776,885 ($[\$116,672 + \$5,163] \times 31$) in FY 2021 and \$3,616,832 ($\$116,672 \times 31$) beginning in FY 2022.

The additional workload related to updating training and materials can be absorbed within the agency's current staffing levels and appropriation.

The total projected costs of this legislation are \$19,664,583 ($\$12,208,243 + \$3,679,455 + \$3,776,885$) in FY 2021 and \$18,635,081 ($\$11,540,151 + \$3,478,098 + \$3,616,832$) in FY

2022, and each year thereafter. There is no unobligated federal funding source available for CPS activities; as such, general fund appropriation will be needed to fund this legislation. A 15.5 percent local match is required for local staff. Therefore, the state and local costs are: \$16,616,573 general fund and \$3,048,010 local matching funds in FY 2021 and \$15,746,643 general fund and \$2,888,438 local matching funds in FY 2022 and beyond.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: See attached.

11. Other Comments: None.

Technical amendment:

Line 16: ...~~to whom~~ *a person who resides*"