

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB920

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

**2. Patron:** Brewer

**3. Committee:** Health, Welfare, and Institutions

**4. Title:** State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program.

**5. Summary:** Creates the State-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program (the program) to facilitate child placements with relatives, including fictive kin, and ensure permanency for children in foster care. The bill sets forth eligibility criteria for the program, payment allowances to kinship guardians, and requirements for kinship guardianship assistance agreements. The bill also expands eligibility for the Federal-Funded Kinship Guardianship Assistance program by allowing payments to be made to fictive kin who receive custody of a child of whom they have been the foster parent.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 292.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2020	-	-	-
2021	\$1,289,354	-	General fund
2022	\$1,289,354	-	General fund
2023	\$1,289,354	-	General fund
2024	\$1,289,354	-	General fund
2025	\$1,289,354	-	General fund
2026	\$1,289,354	-	General fund

\*The total annual cost is \$2,014,616, inclusive of a 36 percent local match of \$725,262 annually.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** In 2018, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) published a report entitled: Improving Virginia's Foster Care System. The report had 34 recommendations, including the establishment of a state-funded kinship guardianship assistance program (KinGAP). Virginia's Commission on Youth's 2019 foster care study included this same recommendation. JLARC recommended expanding the eligibility population for KinGAP to include those children placed in relative foster homes for less than 6 months, thereby removing the eligibility limitations for children who are not as likely to be placed in a permanent home.

In state fiscal year (SFY) 2019, 429 children exited foster care through custody transfer to a relative without KinGAP. Out of those 429, 92 children exited foster care to transfer to custody of a relative while residing in a relative's home serving as a foster home. It is likely that these 92 children would have been eligible for state-funded KinGAP.

The state-supported KinGAP would be funded through the Office of Children's Services (OCS), which administers the Children's Services Act. The annual cost for one child to be placed in state-funded KinGAP is \$21,828, inclusive of a 36 percent local match of \$7,883. The annual cost for 92 children to be supported by state funded KinGAP is \$2,014,616 (\$1,289,354 general fund and \$725,262 local match). There is no impact on staffing needs at the Office of Children's Services and no additional Department of Social Services (DSS) or local department of social services (LDSS) staff or funding is required, as any increases in workload at these agencies are expected to be minimal and can be absorbed within current operations.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Office of Children's Services, Department of Social Services, local departments of social services

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.