

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB930

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

2. **Patron:** Stuart

3. **Committee:** Judiciary

4. **Title:** Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center; creation of a Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline.

5. **Summary:** Provides that the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center must (i) establish a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week toll-free Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline to receive anonymous tips regarding individuals suspected to be in need of mental health treatment to facilitate mental health treatment, crisis intervention, and prevention of tragedies, and (ii) develop and implement policies and procedures for referring tips received through the Hotline to state or local law enforcement, as may be appropriate, in a timely manner for follow-up and investigation.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes. Item 425.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This proposed legislation provides that the Virginia Fusion Intelligence Center must establish a 24-hours-a-day, seven-day-a-week toll-free Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline to receive anonymous tips regarding individuals who are suspected to be in need of mental health treatment in order to facilitate such treatment, crisis intervention, and the prevention of tragedies. The Center must also develop and implement policies and procedures for referring tips received through the Hotline to state or local law enforcement, where appropriate, in a timely manner for follow-up and investigation.

The Virginia Fusion Center (VFC) acts as a central location where state and federal agencies can collaborate with local partners to share information, resources, and expertise to better respond to and prevent criminal activities and other hazards. This bill would require the VFC to operate a Mental Health Crisis Intervention Hotline to receive anonymous tips regarding individuals who may be in need of mental health treatment. According to the Department of State Police (VSP), the annual technology costs to operate the Hotline is estimated at \$1,000,000 per year. The agency will also need personnel trained in crisis intervention to assist in the implementation and management of the Hotline, according to VSP. VSP estimates it would need one counselor position at an annual cost of \$87,637, and one counselor supervisor position at an annual cost of \$101,820. Additional information technology equipment costs for these employees is estimated at \$7,306 in FY 2021 and

\$5,888 in FY 2022. However, any potential increase in workload as a result of the provisions of this bill is indeterminate at this time.

This legislation is likely to increase the number of individuals who are referred to Community Services Boards (CSB) for preadmission screening and crisis/counseling services, and may impact the number of individuals admitted to state or private facilities for inpatient services. Since the number of individuals who will ultimately be referred from the hotline to a CSB or state facility cannot be estimated at this time, the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

This bill may result in an increase of cases being referred to local law enforcement agencies for follow-up and investigation. Any potential fiscal impact on local law enforcement agencies is indeterminate at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of State Police, Community Service Boards, Local law enforcement agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.