

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1334-ER

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

2. **Patron:** Murphy

3. **Committee:** Passed Both Houses

4. **Title:** Child abuse and neglect; valid complaint.

5. **Summary:** Amends the definition of "abused or neglected child" to include a child who is sexually exploited or abused by an intimate partner of the child's parent or caretaker and allows a complaint of child abuse or neglect to be deemed valid by a local department of social services (local department) in such instances. The bill allows a complaint of child abuse or neglect that alleges child trafficking to be deemed valid regardless of who the alleged abuser is or whether the alleged abuser has been identified. The bill requires a local department that receives a complaint or report of child abuse or neglect over which it does not have jurisdiction to forward such complaint or report to the appropriate local department, if the local department that does have jurisdiction is located in the Commonwealth.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that this legislation will have no fiscal impact on the Department of Social Services (DSS) or local departments of social services (LDSS) because, according to the agency, it codifies existing practices related to transferring reports to the appropriate jurisdiction and validating reports when the identity of the alleged abuse or neglecter is unknown at the time of the report.

Additionally, DSS maintains that this legislation does not expand the legal authority or service population of the agency because the intimate partner of a child's parent or caretaker is already included in § 63.2-1508, Code of Virginia. The agency goes on to state that, while the intimate partner of a child's parent or caretaker is not explicitly included in § 63.2-1508, in order to have access to the child, the intimate partner would likely have to be in a caregiving role with the child and would meet the criteria outlined in § 63.2-1508 A.2.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.