

## Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB1779

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** O'Quinn

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Nuclear Education Grant Fund and Program established.

**5. Summary:** Establishes the Nuclear Education Grant Fund and Program, to be administered by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, for the purpose of awarding grants on a competitive basis to any public institution of higher education or private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth that seeks to establish or expand a nuclear education program, defined in the bill as an instructional program that leads to a degree or credential that specifically supports the nuclear power industry, including nuclear engineering and nuclear welding. The bill permits the Council to establish such rules, policies, and procedures as it deems necessary for the administration of the Program, including rules, policies, and procedures for Program applications and grant awards.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The state fiscal impact of the Nuclear Education Grant Program is indeterminate and dependent on the amount of funding appropriated by the General Assembly for such grants. Virginia only has a few public institutions that offer small, nuclear power-related programs: Central Virginia Community College, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). Additionally, there are numerous welding programs at community colleges; however, it is not typical for these programs to have a specific focus on nuclear welding. The creation or expansion of these programs may be limited based on the number of qualified students for enrollment as well as completion.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Virginia public and private institutions of higher education

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None