

## **Department of Planning and Budget**

### **2023 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** SB1292ER

**House of Origin**    ☐ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☒ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Deeds

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** Safe Harbor for Youth

**5. Summary:** The bill provides that the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in consultation with the Virginia State Crime Commission, must identify a suitable locality to administer a two-year Demand Reduction and Safe Harbor for Domestic Minor Sex Trafficked Youth pilot program with a focus on (i) implementing proactive reverse sting operations that target buyers of sex services, with priority given to cases involving sex trafficked youth; (ii) utilizing a multidisciplinary response team to coordinate assessment and treatment for victims of sex trafficking; and (iii) designing an alternative to an arrest protocol that includes a 48–72 hour holding mechanism for youth either in partnership with a local department of social services, a local department of child protective services, or a local hospital or through court services. The location of the pilot program is to remain confidential until the conclusion of the program. Any reference to location must be anonymized in published documents.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final (see Item 8 below)

**8. Fiscal Implications:** According to the Departments of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) and Juvenile Justice (DJJ) and the Virginia Crime Commission, the bill is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on agency resources. The Department of Social Services (DSS) reports that local departments already have the legal authority to place a 72 hour hold on a minor victim of trafficking so no material fiscal impact is anticipated on DSS or local departments of social services (LDSS).

The bill requires the implementation of proactive reverse sting operations that target buyers of sex services, with priority given to cases involving sex trafficked youth. The Department of State Police (VSP) received a total of \$1,246,785 in the second year in the Governor's introduced budget (HB1400/SB800) to respond to human trafficking in the Commonwealth. This includes eight sworn human trafficking investigative positions (\$956,131), a human trafficking victim coordinator (\$76,436), and two human trafficking analysts (\$214,218).

Additionally, there are two Internet Crimes Against Children Task Forces (ICAC), with state, local, and federal law enforcement partnership that focus on, among other things, child trafficking through the use of the internet. These task forces are supported by general fund and nongeneral fund resources. It is unknown if additional resources would be required to support these task forces as a result of this provision.

The impact on local law enforcement agencies cannot be determined at this time.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Criminal Justice Services, Virginia Crime Commission, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Social Services, Department of State Police

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None