

Department of Planning and Budget 2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1404

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Barker

3. Committee: Passed both houses.

4. Title: School Readiness Committee; renaming as Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education; purpose.

5. Summary: Renames the School Readiness Committee as the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education and makes several changes to the Commission, including adjusting its purpose, increasing and adjusting its membership, and establishing eight enumerated powers and duties for the Commission.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 128.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final, see Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: There is not an existing general fund appropriation to support the School Readiness Committee. Past Committee expenses have been supported by the Department of Education (DOE) with a federal grant that was available in the past when the Committee was doing work required of the grant.

This bill authorizes the Commission on Early Childhood Care and Education to hire and pay a salary to an executive director. If the Commission elects to employ an executive director, additional general fund appropriation would be required to support this position. Any actual fiscal impact related to this salary and benefits is indeterminate and would depend on the amount appropriated for this purpose.

The bill also increases the number of legislative members by two and nonlegislative members by two and requires that the Commission meet at least four times per year. These changes would lead to increased costs for travel and other reimbursements. Based on required compensation amounts for legislative and nonlegislative members of a commission and current recommended reimbursements for travel, food, and other expenses, annual costs related to meeting expenses could reach \$56,000.

While this bill changes the existing Committee to a Commission and directs the Commission to appoint a legislative chair, the Commission remains in Code Section § 2.2-208.1, under the

Office of the Secretary of Education. Any additional funding for meeting costs and for an executive director salary and benefits would need to be appropriated to the Secretary of Education's office. There is not currently sufficient appropriation under the Secretary of Education to support a full-time salary and benefits for an executive director or to provide increased reimbursements for meeting expenses.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Secretary of Education, Secretary of Labor, Department of Education, Department of Social Services, Senate of Virginia, House of Delegates, Virginia Economic Development Partnership

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

- 11. Other Comments:** This bill is identical to HB1423 as enrolled.