

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1503

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

2. **Patron:** Rouse

3. **Committee:** General Laws and Technology

4. **Title:** Social Work Advisory Board; established; report.

5. **Summary:** Establishes the Social Work Advisory Board to advise the Governor on efforts to improve the social work profession in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Social Work Advisory Board to report annually by December 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly regarding its activities and recommendations. The Secretary of the Commonwealth, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, and the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, item 301.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see item 8.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	\$106,600	1	09223
2025	\$106,600	1	09223
2026	\$106,600	1	09223
2027	\$106,600	1	09223
2028	\$106,600	1	09223
2029	\$106,600	1	09223
2030	\$106,600	1	09223

7b. Revenue Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	\$106,600	09223
2025	\$106,600	09223
2026	\$106,600	09223
2027	\$106,600	09223
2028	\$106,600	09223
2029	\$106,600	09223
2030	\$106,600	09223

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Health Professions and the Board of Social Work do not have sufficient resources to absorb the provisions of this bill. This bill would create the Social Work Advisory Board, which would be the largest board within the Department of Health Professions and be comprised of 20 members. DHP's current largest board is the Board of Medicine, which has 18 members and requires staff assistance for coordination of board meetings. Additionally, DHP has stated that the responsibilities are similar to that of its only policy board, the Board of Health Professions, which has an executive director and staff to handle the operational workload. While the Board of Health Professions may be similar in scope, it is not comparable in terms of meeting requirements. The Board of Health Professions must meet once annually by statute and nothing in the code allows the Board of Health Professions to meet on call of the chair or a majority of the members. The Social Work Advisory Board could potentially meet multiple times a year depending on the chair and makeup of the advisory board. While it is unknown how many meetings the board will require to perform the duties as provided in the bill, an estimate is provided for coordination and board member compensation. To assist the Social Work Advisory Board, the Board of Social Work would require one position, which would cost an estimated \$85,600 in salary, fringe benefits, and other operational costs. This position would be responsible for coordination efforts for 20 board members for each meeting. The Board shall meet when a majority feels it is necessary or upon the call of the chair. The cost to compensate Advisory Board members would be \$350 for each meeting for a total cost of \$7,000 per meeting. If the board meets an estimated three times a year, this would have an annual cost of \$21,000 in board compensation. This assumes a mix of travel and overnight stay, meals, and a per diem as provided in provided in §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. It is assumed that fees would be adjusted for healthcare practitioners to cover the costs of the Social Work Advisory Board.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Health Professions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.