Department of Planning and Budget
2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1519

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

2. **Patron:** Barker

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Public institutions of higher education; Virginia College Savings Plan; renamed Commonwealth Savers.

5. **Summary:** Renames the Virginia College Savings Plan as the Commonwealth Savers Plan (the Plan) and amends all relevant references to "college savings trust account" to "education savings trust account." The bill provides that the purpose of the Plan is to enhance the accessibility, affordability, and attainability of higher education in the Commonwealth. The bill expands the duties of the governing board (the board) of the Plan to include developing, implementing, and funding programs or partnerships to enhance the accessibility, affordability, and attainability of higher education for underserved and underrepresented communities and students and authorizes the board to develop policies for the funding and review of such programs or partnerships. The bill expands the definition of "current obligations of the Plan" to include any additional benefit or educational access, affordability, and attainability program or partnership developed pursuant to the Plan. The bill further prohibits any officer, director, or member of the board or of any advisory committee to the board from being held personally liable for any loss suffered by the Plan. Finally, the bill provides that any benefit paid on any prepaid tuition contract entered prior to July 1, 2019, may be supplemented by an additional benefit, subject to the determination and discretion of the board. The bill contains technical amendments.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary**: No

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:**

The Virginia College Savings Plan (Virginia529) indicates that the cost associated with the agency's name change from "Virginia College Savings Plan" to "Commonwealth Savers Plan" is indeterminate at this time but involves no general funds. Virginia College Savings Plan (Virginia529) will determine cost estimates during the upcoming budget development cycle for the 2024-2026 biennial budget and anticipates that these costs will be absorbed within its operating budget.

The cost associated with HB2396's enhanced benefits and accessibility, affordability, and attainability program provisions are also currently indeterminate but involve no general funds. Virginia529 anticipates a portion of net operating revenues and of an actuarial funding surplus would be allocated to a new access fund within the agency's special nonreverting enterprise fund (the Fund) to address the agency's statutory mandate. As the Board has not yet considered any amounts to allocate, the fiscal impact is not yet known. There will be no fiscal impact on the general fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia College Savings Plan

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: SB1519 is the companion bill to HB2396.