

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1075

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

2. Patron: Coyner

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Board of Education; Imagination Library of Virginia Program and Fund established.

5. Summary: Establishes the Imagination Library of Virginia Program (the Program) and the Imagination Library of Virginia Fund for the purpose of encouraging preschool-age children to learn to read by providing one reading selection, defined by the bill as any high-quality, age-appropriate book, monthly to the home of each registered child from birth to age five at no cost to the child's family. The bill provides that each school board in the Commonwealth shall serve as the local partner for the administration of the Program in its respective school division and requires the Board of Education to establish the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Affiliate to collaborate with each school board in (i) mailing monthly reading selections directly to the residence of each child, beginning as early as such child's birth month through the month in which such child reaches five years of age, (ii) identifying and locating families with an eligible child within such school division and encouraging them to register such child for the Program, and (iii) handling any undelivered monthly reading selections. The bill provides that the costs incurred by each school board shall, subject to appropriation, be reimbursed to each such school board. The bill establishes that the Board is responsible for the administration of the Program, including (a) managing the Program's daily operations or delegating such management to the Department of Education, the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Affiliate, or such other entity as the Board may deem appropriate; (b) coordinating with local organizations and each school board to advance and strengthen the Program; (c) developing, promoting, and coordinating a public awareness program to increase awareness of the Program; (d) ensuring the appropriation of sufficient funds by including in any budget request each year a plan to ensure the distribution of sufficient funds to each school division; and (e) providing an annual report to the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education detailing the activities of the Program and Fund for the immediately preceding year. The provisions of the bill expire on January 1, 2029.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 117 and potentially Item 124.

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

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** The additional state cost for the Imagination Library of Virginia Program and Fund cannot be determined, as any cost is dependent on the amount of funding appropriated by the General Assembly to support the program. The Governor's introduced budget, HB/SB 30, 2024 General Assembly Session, appropriates \$1,157,065 per year for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in Item 124. It is not clear if these funds are intended to support the Imagination Library of Virginia Program. A budget language amendment in Item 124 would be required to direct these funds to the Imagination Library of Virginia Program and Fund.

If the Imagination Library of Virginia Program is established pursuant to this bill, the Department of Education is required to perform a number of additional duties related to the program. The Department of Education would require an additional position to administer the program at the state level, at a total annual cost of \$140,104 per year including salary, benefits, and technology. Local school divisions may experience additional costs to administer the program, but any actual impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Education, Board of Education, local school divisions

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

- 11. Other Comments:** None