

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB911

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

**2. Patron:** Shin

**3. Committee:** Rules

**4. Title:** Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council; staffing; annual audit.

**5. Summary:** Provides for an annual audit of the Statement of Economic Interests disclosure forms filed by members of the General Assembly to ensure the completeness and material accuracy of the information disclosed. The bill directs the Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council to appoint and employ an executive director; currently, the Division of Legislative Services employs the executive director and provides additional staff assistance. Additional staff required pursuant to the bill includes at least one experienced lawyer and at least one experienced auditor or investigator. The bill also increases the civil penalty for certain violations related to filing such disclosure forms and prohibits any such penalty from being paid using funds contributed to or received by a candidate or his campaign committee or by any political committee. Lastly, the bill brings the reporting period and deadline for lobbyists' disclosures into alignment with the schedule for filing disclosures required pursuant to the State and Local Government Conflict of Interests Act and the General Assembly Conflicts of Interests Act.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate. This bill grants the Commission the authority to employ an executive director and other necessary staff. It is unknown how many staff the Commission may hire and the anticipated salaries. The bill also increases the penalty on legislators for the failure to file the disclosure from \$250 to a maximum of \$500. It is unknown at this time the additional revenues this increase will generate.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Conflict of Interest and Ethics Advisory Council

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None