

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

**1. Bill Number:** SB 43

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:** Favola

**3. Committee:** Finance and Appropriations

**4. Title:** Persons with disabilities; creates an ombudsman program within disAbility Law Center of Virginia

**5. Summary:** The proposed legislation establishes an ombudsman program for persons with disabilities within the disAbility Law Center of Virginia. The program may receive and respond to questions regarding state-operated programs that provide services to persons with disabilities. The program is required to establish a toll-free phone number and web-based portal for receiving questions.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** See Item 8.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Section 51.5-39.13, Code of Virginia, already requires the disAbility Law Center of Virginia to provide advocacy, legal, and ombudsman services to persons with disabilities. As such, it is not expected that the bill's requirement to establish an ombudsman program for persons with disabilities would require any additional resources.

The bill also specifies that the Center must maintain and publicize a toll-free phone number and web portal. It appears that the Center already has this capacity on its website. Therefore, it is assumed these provisions would not generate any additional costs.

It is unclear as to how the bill's provision to make operation of the ombudsman program contingent on the receipt of adequate state funding would have on existing requirements. The Commonwealth does not currently provide state funds to the Center and this provision may be interpreted to require such support be provided to continue ombudsman services. If so, there would be a state cost to providing ombudsman services and a budget amendment would be necessary. No estimate as to the cost of ombudsman operations is currently available.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** None

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None