

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 43

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ 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 substitute bill establishes a helpline program for persons with disabilities created within the disAbility Law Center of Virginia. This program may receive and respond to questions regarding state-operated programs that provide services to persons with disabilities. In addition, the center must publicize the procedures for contacting the helpline program and establish, maintain, and publicize a toll-free phone number and web-based portal for receiving questions. The operation of the program is contingent on the receipt of adequate state funding.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, the provisions of this bill are contingent on the disAbility Law Center receiving state funding to support the helpline program. Should no funding be provided, then the Center is not required to implement the program. Since the disAbility Law Center was removed from the Executive Branch and the Health and Human Resources secretariat to avoid potential conflicts of interest, it is unclear to which Item potential state support should be appropriated.

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

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	-	-
2025	\$196,000	General
2026	\$176,000	General
2027	\$176,000	General
2028	\$176,000	General
2029	\$176,000	General
2030	\$176,000	General

8. Fiscal Implications: The Commonwealth does not currently provide state funds to the disAbility Law Center. As such, it is assumed that for the provisions of this bill to be implemented, the Commonwealth would need to provide the Center with state support. Specifically, the Center would need funding to establish, staff and maintain a helpline program, which would include 1-800 number as well as a web portal.

It is assumed that the Center would require a minimum of two positions, at a cost of approximately \$160,000 annually, to staff the help line and respond to questions. In addition, it is assumed that the information technology and publicity costs would be approximately \$36,000 the first year and \$16,000 each year thereafter. Note: These amounts could vary depending on the ultimate web development and publicity efforts.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: None

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: None