

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB573S1

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

2. Patron: Obenshain

3. Committee: Courts of Justice

4. Title: Virginia Public Safety Communications Infrastructure Fund and Program established.

5. Summary: Establishes the Virginia Public Safety Communications Infrastructure Fund and Program, to be administered by the Department of Emergency Management and financially managed by the Virginia Resources Authority, for the purpose of awarding grants to local governments for the purpose of assisting with improvement projects relating to public safety radio and communications infrastructure.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 398.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Item 8 below).

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) estimates that to develop and oversee the Program and the Fund as required by this bill, it would need additional resources to hire up to two full-time Public Safety Communications Coordinators at an annual cost of \$116,193 each (including benefits), should the program be funded to issue grants.

According to the Virginia Resources Authority (VRA), their costs to financially manage the fund would depend on the volume of activity but are preliminary estimated at \$25,000 per year. VRA notes that this bill does not expressly allow the Authority to reimburse itself for its reasonable costs and expenses incurred in the administration and management of the Fund. It is assumed that the bill is intended to allow VRA to be reimbursed for such costs from amounts in the Virginia Public Safety Communications Infrastructure Fund.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Emergency Management, Virginia Resources Authority.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Companion bill to HB1484.