

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB2123

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

2. Patron: Lopez

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia; eligibility for in-state tuition.

5. Summary: Provides that students who meet the criteria in the Code of Virginia that determines eligibility for in-state tuition regardless of their citizenship or immigration status shall also be deemed to be domiciled in the Commonwealth. The bill also provides that all such students shall be afforded the same educational benefits, including access to state financial assistance programs, as any other individual who is eligible for in-state tuition. The bill has a delayed effective date of August 1, 2022, and directs the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in coordination with institutions of higher education in the Commonwealth, to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of the bill.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: As the bill has a delayed enactment until August 1, 2022, it will not affect state financial aid in the current biennium; however, there will be costs incurred in the current biennium to prepare for implementing the provisions of this legislation. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) anticipates there will be implementation costs associated with developing new infrastructure for: an online application; software for determining eligibility; communications protocol between students, SCHEV, and institutions; and data storage and security procedures.

Based on preliminary estimates by SCHEV, these implementation costs are not expected to exceed \$200,000 in the current biennium, which could be absorbed within SCHEV's current appropriation, assuming that no other mandates are passed by the General Assembly that would increase its operating costs. It is anticipated that any ongoing costs from this proposal next biennium also can be absorbed by SCHEV.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, public and private institutions of higher education.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: Companion to SB1387.