

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB304

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

2. Patron: Ballard

3. Committee: Committee Referral Pending

4. Title: Virginia Firefighting Facilities Grant Program.

5. Summary: Establishes the Virginia Firefighting Facilities Grant Program for the purpose of awarding grants on a first-come, first-served basis to localities for the purpose of building and maintaining their firefighting facilities. The amount of such grants, as appropriated by the General Assembly, is to be as provided in the appropriation act. The Program is to be administered by the Department of Fire Programs. The Department would be required to develop guidelines for the Program, which (i) emphasize providing grants to localities that are cost burdened in the provision of firefighting services and (ii) require remedying facilities that do not meet minimum standards established by law. Additionally, the bill requires the Department to report annually, beginning November 1, 2025, to the Governor and the General Assembly a list of grants, the amount of each approved grant, and an assessment of the effectiveness of the Program in assisting localities in building and maintaining their firefighting facilities.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 406.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: According to the Department of Fire Programs (VD FP), one additional full-time position at an estimated annual cost of \$117,106 (salary and fringe benefits) is anticipated to be needed to carry out the proposed Virginia Firefighting Facilities Grant Program. Currently, the agency has two grants management positions overseeing five existing grant programs. However, the agency believes one additional person would be needed to address the additional workload.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Fire Programs, local and regional fire response agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.