

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2025 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB1917

**Patron:** Martinez

**Bill Title:** Institutions of higher education; confidential resource advisors.

**Bill Summary:** Requires each public institution of higher education and each private institution of higher education to designate at least one confidential resource advisor to serve as a confidential resource for students and employees to discuss alleged acts of sexual misconduct and receive information on resources available to such students or employees. The bill creates a statutory privilege between the confidential resource advisor and a student or employee who shares information with such confidential resource advisor.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Indeterminate

**Explanation:** This bill impacts public and private institutions of higher education (IHEs). The fiscal impact to these entities is indeterminate at this time; however, public IHEs anticipate additional costs to support the requirements of the bill.

**Fiscal Summary:** Responding public IHEs anticipate additional costs to meet the provisions of this bill, primarily to hire or train appropriate personnel. While some institutions have existing staff that could fill the role of a confidential resource advisor (CRA), at minimum, there would be a need for increased salary and training. Some IHEs currently have student-peer advisors for fellow students who have experienced alleged sexual misconduct, and the current provisions of this bill would remove the ability for students to serve in this capacity as a CRA, which would increase the need for additional staffing. Public IHEs anticipate the need for approximately \$36,000 - \$4.0 million annually per responding institution for additional personnel. The lower estimate of the range represents a stipend-based approach for existing employees, while the higher estimate of the range represents the Virginia Community College System who would need to ensure CRA staffing was adequate across 40 campuses. The average need from IHEs entailed one additional CRA-designated personnel at approximately \$100,000 annually for salary and benefits. Public IHEs also anticipate potential costs associated with legal consultation to ensure that the statutory privilege created by this bill is clearly defined and effectively implemented. The actual fiscal impact is indeterminate at this time.

**Other:** This fiscal impact is preliminary and based on feedback from private and public IHEs as of the date of publication.