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

PUBLISHED: 1/20/2025 10:01 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB1800 **Patron:** Cohen
Bill Title: Rights of persons with disabilities; public places; playgrounds.

Bill Summary: Clarifies that persons with disabilities have the same rights as other persons to the full and free use of public playgrounds.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** n/a
Explanation: See fiscal analysis below. This bill does not require that language updates be made to the proposed Appropriation Act.

Fiscal Summary: Any impact to state agencies or local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill adds language specifying that a person with a disability has the right to the free and full use of public playgrounds, in addition to other public places. § 51.5-44 B of the *Code of Virginia* requires that places of public accommodation remove barriers to accessibility when the removal is deemed readily achievable, which may result in costs for the entities overseeing these places.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) oversees public playgrounds at 30 state parks around the Commonwealth. This legislation does not require the Department to make specific updates to their playgrounds or add equipment to existing parks. However, the Department may be required to remove existing barriers to accessibility at the parks should any such barriers be identified. The nature and size of such barriers may vary across playgrounds, and to date no such barriers have been reported; as such, any costs to DCR associated with this legislation are indeterminate.

In addition, there may be costs to local school divisions to remove existing barriers that are identified at public school playgrounds; any such costs are indeterminate.

Other: n/a