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

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#### ORIGINAL

Bill Number:SB984Patron:MulchiBill Title:Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program established.

**Bill Summary:** Establishes the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program for the purpose of providing grants to localities to hire additional firefighters and to improve their firefighting and emergency medical services. The bill specifies that the Department of Fire Programs shall administer the Program and two types of grants shall be made from the Program. The first shall provide grants to localities to increase the number of firefighters. Such grants shall be made for up to three years and shall be used by localities for programs to (i) hire new, additional full-time firefighters; (ii) convert part-time or volunteer firefighters to full-time firefighters; or (iii) recruit and retain volunteer firefighters. The second shall provide grants to localities for improving firefighting and emergency medical services, including by acquiring firefighting and emergency medical services vehicles and equipment and modifying facilities. For both grants, the bill provides that funds shall not be used to supplant any funds currently provided by the Commonwealth or by the locality and shall be used to increase the total amount of funds available for the provision of firefighting or emergency medical services.

The bill requires the Department to report annually, beginning November 1, 2026, to the Governor and the General Assembly information regarding a list of grants, the amount of each approved grant, information on the performance assessment system that the bill directs the Department to create, an evaluation of each grant based on such system, and any other criteria deemed relevant by the Department.

Budget Amendment Necessary:YesItems Impacted:Items 405 and 406Explanation:Two full-time equivalent positions and associated funding are required under Item 405 (Fire<br/>Training and Technical Support Services) and funding for grant distribution is required under<br/>Item 406.

**Fiscal Summary:** According to the Department of Fire Programs (DFP), two additional full-time equivalent positions and \$236,050 general fund annually is required to support the provisions of the bill. An amount, to be determined, will also need to be appropriated for the purpose of grant distribution as proposed by the bill.

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	<u>FY2028</u>	FY2029	<u>FY2030</u>
DFP		\$236,050	\$236,050	\$236,050	\$236,050	\$236,050
TOTAL		\$236,050	\$236,050	\$236,050	\$236,050	\$236,050

## General Fund Expenditure Impact:

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FY2030 2.00 2.00

Position Impact:									
Agency	<u>FY2025</u>	FY2026	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	FY2029				
DFP		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00				
TOTAL		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00				

**Fiscal Analysis:** According to DFP, two additional full-time grants administrators are required to carry out the two proposed grants within the Virginia Fire Personnel and Equipment Grant Program. Each position would have a base salary of \$75,000 plus fringe benefits and equipment costs for a total of \$118,025 per position. The positions would have the responsibilities of administering the two new grants, to include receiving and reviewing grant applications, managing grant distribution, and ensuring grantees remain in compliance with reporting requirements. According to DFP, the agency currently employs two grants administrators that are responsible for managing five annual grants and one one-time grant. DFP anticipates that the two existing grants administrators would not be able to manage the additional workload of the two proposed grants in this bill. It is unclear the amount of grant funding needed to sufficiently meet the provisions of the proposed grant program at this time.

Included in the Introduced Budget (HB1600/SB800) is a one-time appropriation of \$5,000,000 general fund in fiscal year 2026 for the purpose of providing grants to localities with qualifying fire departments or fire companies to purchase protective equipment for firefighters. Such funds are intended to be used solely for the purpose of purchasing breathing apparatus equipment and other non-vehicular equipment necessary for the protection of firefighters responding to a fire. The intent of this appropriation is similar to the provisions of section C. of the bill, with the difference being the proposed bill allows grant funds to be used to purchase firefighting and emergency medical services vehicles.

Other: None.