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

PUBLISHED: 1/20/2025 4:16 PM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB2275 **Patron:** Ennis
Bill Title: Virginia Freedom of Information Act; civil penalties.

Bill Summary: Increases the minimum and maximum civil penalties that may be imposed upon an officer, employee, or member of a public body for violations of certain provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The bill also adjusts the minimum and maximum civil penalty for such second and subsequent violations, in addition to increasing the minimum and maximum civil penalties that can be imposed on a public body for violations related to certifying a closed meeting.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None
Explanation: This legislation will create an indeterminate fiscal impact.

Fiscal Summary: This legislation increases the civil penalty for violations of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act to between $2,000 and $4,000 for a first violation, and between $4,000 and $6,000 for a second violation. This legislation also increases the civil penalty for public bodies who certify a closed meeting to $1,000 for a first time violation and up to $7,500 for each subsequent violation. It is not possible to determine the number of potential violations of these provisions may occur, and therefore not possible to determine the potential cost to public bodies, or the revenue impacts this legislation would have on the Literary Fund.

Fiscal Analysis: See Fiscal Summary

Other: None