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

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Bill Number: HB2594 Patron: Singh

Bill Title: Standards and training for security at religious places of worship; Religious Place of Worship

Security Services Fund established.

Bill Summary: Requires the Department of Criminal Justice Services to establish statewide standards and procedures, including training, for the provision of security services at religious places of worship within the Commonwealth. The bill also establishes the Religious Place of Worship Security Services Fund to be administered by the Department for the purpose of obtaining or hiring a law-enforcement officer, unarmed security officer, or armed security officer to provide security at a religious place of worship during religious services or activities.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** 394

Explanation: Additional funding required to support two positions and hire subject matter expert

consultants. Item 394 is also appropriate if the General Assembly decides to provide funds

for the newly created Religious Place of Worship Security Services Fund.

Fiscal Summary: According to the Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), the agency anticipates a one-time expense of \$150,000 to hire subject matter experts on the various religious traditions to analyze them and create appropriate security measures. DCJS also anticipates the need for up to two additional FTEs to develop training policies and administer grants, for a total estimated cost of \$232,000 annually.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
DCJS	\$0	\$382,000	\$232,000	\$232,000	\$232,000	\$232,000
TOTAL	\$0	\$382,000	\$232,000	\$232,000	\$232,000	\$232,000

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
DCJS	0	2	2	2	2	2
TOTAL	0	2	2	2	2	2

Fiscal Analysis: This bill would mandate DCJS to establish training standards for law enforcement officers, armed security officers, and unarmed security officers that would need to cover all religious traditions, services, or activities in Virginia. DCJS believes that creating a standardized training encompassing every

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possible religious tradition would require significant expertise. Subject matter experts on an estimated 10,000 distinct religious traditions would need to be found and their services employed. An analysis of different religious traditions would then need to be undertaken from a security/law enforcement perspective. Regulations regarding training and standards for law enforcement and security officers would also need to be significantly revised and expanded to accommodate the analysis of each religious tradition. DCJS reports that it would also need to substantially expand and update its training records database (TRACER) to allow for tracking of the completion of the new training standards by current law enforcement officers. DCJS anticipates a one-time cost of \$150,000 for subject matter experts on religious traditions to analyze them and create appropriate security measures. DCJS also anticipates the need for one criminal justice analyst to develop the new Compulsory Minimum Training Standards and support requisite regulatory changes. This position would have an estimated annual salary of \$85,000, plus \$38,250 in fringe benefits, for a total cost of \$123,250.

Furthermore, the bill would establish the Religious Place of Worship Security Services Fund to be administered by DCJS. The purpose of this fund would be to obtain or hire a law-enforcement officer, unarmed security officer, or armed security officer to provide security at a religious place of worship during any religious services or activities. DCJS anticipates the need for one grant monitor to review grant applications and monitor available funds, as outlined in the bill, if the General Assembly decides to capitalize this Fund. This position would have an estimated annual salary of \$75,000, plus \$33,750 in fringe benefits, for a total cost of \$108,750.

Other: None