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

PUBLISHED: 1/23/2025 11:44 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB927E **Patron:** Head
Bill Title: Virginia Sports Tourism Fund.

Bill Summary: Creates the Virginia Sports Tourism Fund, to be administered by the Virginia Tourism Authority, to provide grants to sports tourism activity sponsors, defined in the bill, to develop and attract sports tourism activities, also defined in the bill, to the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Virginia Tourism Authority to establish guidelines and criteria for grant awards and to report annually on the Fund and grant program. The bill also requires a work group of stakeholders to be convened to recommend guidelines for grant disbursements from the Fund and report such recommendations to the General Assembly by October 31, 2025.

Budget Amendment Necessary: **Yes.** **Items Impacted:** **101(EDIP)**

Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Tourism Authority (VTA). As the bill creates a new Fund to be administered by VTA, a budget amendment is required. See Fiscal Analysis, below.

Fiscal Summary: This bill does not provide a source of funding for the new Fund; it is anticipated that a general fund amendment will be needed to capitalize the newly created Fund.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. This bill creates a new fund in the state treasury called the Virginia Sports Tourism Fund. The Virginia Tourism Authority (VTA) is tasked with managing and administering the Fund. To capitalize the Fund, an appropriation is required under Item 101, Economic Development Incentive Payments (EDIP). The bill does not identify a funding source.

VTA is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth and is not a part of the state accounting system Cardinal. This bill specifies that the Fund shall be a part of the state treasury. As such, a fiscal agent will be necessary to assist with administration of the Fund. Currently, the Division of Executive Administrative Services under the Secretary of Administration serves as fiscal agent for VTA for other grant funds.

The bill specifies that from such funds as are appropriated, the monies in the Fund shall be used for grants and administrative expenses of the Fund as provided in the appropriation act. The size and scope of the grant program is unknown at this time.

Other: HB1907H1 creates a Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program.

The introduced budget bill, HB1600/SB800, includes $5.0 million in Item 114 from the general fund the first year for VTA to establish and support the Virginia Sports Incentive Grant Program.