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

PUBLISHED: 2/12/2025 9:29 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB2520H1 **Patron:** Cole
Bill Title: Virginia military forces; Sexual Offense Prevention and Response Program established.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Sexual Offense Prevention and Response Program (the Program) within the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). The bill also establishes the Sexual Offense Prevention and Response Officer (the Officer) to perform victim advocacy services, including helping victims of certain criminal sexual assault offenses make either a restricted report or an unrestricted report, as those terms are defined in the bill. Additionally, the bill allows evidence of a Military Protective Order issued by a commanding officer of any other state in favor of the petitioner or petitioner's family to be used to issue a protective order. Restricted and unrestricted reports may be made (i) by a person who is a member of the Virginia military forces, defined in the bill as the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force, or (ii) against a member of the Virginia military forces. The bill directs the Adjutant General, in coordination with the Officer, to submit an annual report to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the chairmen of both the House and Senate Committees for Courts of Justice. The annual report shall include relevant information enumerated in the bill, including implementation and effectiveness of the Program's policies and procedures, as well as statistical information about restricted reports and unrestricted reports.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: See fiscal analysis.

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated fiscal impact on state agencies as a result of this bill.

Fiscal Analysis: According to DMA, there currently exists a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC) department within the Virginia National Guard. The SARC and associated staff are a part of the federal civilian workforce and therefore are funded through the federal government. As such, there is no anticipated fiscal impact as a result of the bill. Additionally, there is no anticipated fiscal impact associated with the proposed provisions for annual reporting on the program.

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary, there is no anticipated fiscal impact on the courts system as a result of this bill.

Other: None.