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

PUBLISHED: 2/19/2025 10:31 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB1901ER **Patron:** Willett
Bill Title: Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program.

Bill Summary: Creates the Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program, to be administered by the Virginia Tourism Authority, to provide grants to sports tourism activity sponsors, defined in the bill, in order to develop and attract sports tourism activities to the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Virginia Tourism Authority to establish guidelines and criteria for grant awards and to report annually on the 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: **See Fiscal Analysis.** **Items Impacted:** **N/A.**

Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Tourism Authority (VTA); however, a budget amendment to appropriate funding is not required. A language only amendment may be needed. See Fiscal Analysis.

Fiscal Summary: This bill establishes a grant program to be administered by VTA. Funding in the introduced budget bill (HB1600/SB800) is included for a Virginia Sports Incentive Grant Program.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is final. This bill creates a grant program titled the Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program to be administered by VTA. 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. Of the $5.0 million, $500,000 is specified for the City of Bristol to support the promotion of a major sporting event. Budget language may be needed to conform the Virginia Sports Incentive Grant Program with the provisions of Virginia Sports Tourism Grant Program in this bill.

A proposed House amendment to the budget includes an additional $3.0 million for the program. A proposed Senate amendment removes the funding included in the introduced bill.

Other: SB927 is the companion to this bill.