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

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Bill Number: HB1759ER **Patron:** Gardner
Bill Title: Department of Corrections; Department of Workforce Development and Advancement; post-release job search assistance services.

Bill Summary: The bill provides that the Department of Corrections shall work with the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement to provide post-release job search assistance services to assist individuals in finding employment upon release from incarceration and refer such individuals to case management services where eligible from such funds as are available. The bill clarifies that the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement shall coordinate implementation and delivery of such post-release job search assistance services with Virginia Workforce System partners, including local workforce development boards.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** NA
Explanation: The Governor's introduced budget includes funding for five positions to continue a re-entry job placement collaboration between the Department of Workforce Development and Advancement and the Department of Corrections; thus no budget amendment required.

Fiscal Summary:

This bill impacts the Department of Workforce Development & Advancement (DWDA) as it will increase outreach, job placement and support services guidance. The fiscal impact of this legislation is anticipated to be $376,935, which is included in the Governor's introduced budget in Item 354. It is anticipated that the Department of Corrections can absorb any costs associated with this bill.

Fiscal Analysis:

The DWDA operations are funded by the NGF federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) grant funds. This type of activity would require the use of WIOA Title III Wagner-Peyser resources that are designated for employment services. Those funds have already been allocated for current and future operations. The DWDA has reached capacity for the current job placement services it provides to citizens of the Commonwealth.

The introduced budget includes five positions to be dedicated towards serving the Correction's inmate population for enhanced services due to special needs and unique barriers that inhibit job placement and long-term employment solutions. The budget assumes the annual cost per position is $75,389 (includes salary and benefits). The annual cost for five positions is $376,935 (includes salaries and benefits).

Other: The amendments to the budget made by the conferees retain the funding provided in the introduced budget for this effort.