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

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Bill Number: HB1797ER **Patron:** Helmer Concealed handgun permits; reciprocity with other states.

Bill Summary: Provides that the Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, shall determine whether states meet the statutory qualifications for Virginia to recognize the concealed handgun permit of a person from another state. Under current law, any out-of-state permit is recognized in the Commonwealth provided that (i) the issuing authority provides the means for instantaneous verification of the validity of all such permits or licenses issued within that state, accessible 24 hours a day; (ii) the permit or license holder carries a photo identification issued by a government agency of any state or by the U.S. Department of Defense or U.S. Department of State and displays the permit or license and such identification upon demand by a law-enforcement officer; and (iii) the permit or license holder has not previously had a Virginia concealed handgun permit revoked. The bill also provides that a Virginia resident who has not been issued a valid resident concealed handgun permit may not use a concealed handgun or concealed weapon permit or license issued by another state to carry a concealed handgun in the Commonwealth. The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to review any agreements for reciprocal recognition that are in place with any other states as of July 1, 2025, to determine whether the requirements and qualifications of those states' laws are adequate to prevent possession of a permit or license by persons who would be denied a permit in the Commonwealth and revoke any reciprocity agreement or recognition of any states that do not meet such requirements or qualifications by December 1, 2025. The bill requires the Attorney General to provide a written explanation for any determination that a state's laws are adequate to prevent possession of such permit or license by persons who would be denied such permit in the Commonwealth. The bill exempts active duty service members of the United States Armed Forces or the spouses of such active duty service members from the provisions of the bill. The provisions of the bill's first enactment are not effective until July 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 417

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: The Department of State Police will incur personnel costs associated with implementing the provisions of this legislation.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
Dept. of State Police	\$46,914	\$187,656	\$187,656	\$187,656	\$187,656	\$187,656

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TOTAL

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
Dept. of State Police	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL	1	1	1	1	1	1
IUIAL	1	1	1	1	1	1

Fiscal Analysis: The bill requires the Superintendent of State Police to consult with the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to determine whether other states meet the statutory qualifications for Virginia to recognize the concealed handgun permit of a person from another state. It also requires the Department of State Police (VSP) to maintain a registry of such states on the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN), and to make the registry available to law-enforcement officers for investigative purposes. It also permits the Superintendent, in consultation with the Attorney General, to enter into agreements for reciprocal recognition with any state qualifying for recognition under the provisions.

If the intent of the proposed bill is for the VSP, which oversees the Concealed Weapons Program, to be responsible for continuously monitoring and evaluating changes in the laws of the other 49 states to make determinations as to the qualification for reciprocity, then the agency believes it may need funding to support a First Sergeant (Attorney). The estimated ongoing cost for this position is \$187,646 annually (salary and benefits). The agency believes it would need to hire this position in FY2025 to meet the reporting deadlines required by this legislation.

To the extent that VSP has to modify the VCIN system to meet the requirements of this legislation, the Governor's proposed amended budget (HB1600/SB800) provides nongeneral fund appropriation for various modifications to the system. Should the legislation be enacted, it's assumed that those changes could be included in a work order and absorbed within current resources.

Based on a preliminary review by the Office of the Attorney General, there is not expected to be a significant fiscal impact on the agency as a result of this legislation.

Other: None