

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB208

Patron: Williams

Bill Title: Anti-harassment orders.

Bill Summary: Creates a procedure for issuing an anti-harassment order, defined in the bill. The bill also provides that (i) an anti-harassment order does not constitute a restraining order to disqualify a person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit and (ii) a violation of an anti-harassment order is punishable as contempt of court.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 33, 34, 35

Explanation: The proposed legislation would create a court process wherein anti-harassment orders could be issued by the courts. This process would require that representation be appointed in instances where the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) is applicable, or that a guardian ad litem (GAL) be appointed when required by law. In such instances where there is no provision for the compensation of counsel or a GAL, the court would be able to order such counsel or GAL to be compensated for services in accordance with Va. Code § 19.2-163. Compensated services would be paid from the Criminal Fund.

Fiscal Summary: There is not enough available information to reliably estimate the fiscal impact of this bill on the revenues of the Criminal Fund, and as such the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: It cannot be determined how many individuals would file for the issuance of an anti-harassment order if this process were available. Additionally, it cannot be determined how many such cases would result in a court ordering compensation for the appointment of counsel under the SCRA or appointment of a GAL. As such, the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

Other: None