

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

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REVISED

Bill Number: HB208

Bill Title: Anti-harassment orders.

Patron: Williams

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. According to the Virginia State Police, updates to the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) are necessary to permit the addition of anti-harassment orders in the system. It is estimated that the VCIN updates will be a one-time cost of \$100,000 general fund in FY2027.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
156		\$100,000.00				
TOTAL		\$100,000.00				

Fiscal Analysis: This FIS is being revised to incorporate the impact on Virginia State Police as noted below.

According to the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES) of the Supreme Court of Virginia, 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 on Courts is indeterminate.

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According to the Virginia State Police, this bill would create a procedure to issue temporary anti-harassment orders to protect a victim and/or his/her family members from communication, intimidation, or physical presence by the respondent to the order.

All anti-harassment orders would be entered into the Virginia Criminal Information Network (VCIN) through a process involving the court or magistrate issuing the order and law enforcement agencies.

By entering the anti-harassment order into VCIN, all law enforcement personnel with access to VCIN would be able to see the anti-harassment order and all associated information by conducting a name search of the respondent in the VCIN network.

Updates to VCIN are necessary to permit the addition of anti-harassment orders in the system. These updates are estimated to be a one-time cost of \$100,000. This includes all IT-associated costs for the development, implementation, and testing of the system updates.

Other: None