

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB274

Patron: Locke

Bill Title: Educational and cultural institutions; Recognition and restoration of status of Hampton University as a land-grant university; Hampton University Land-Grant Restoration Fund established; requirements.

Bill Summary: Recognizes and restores the status of Hampton University as an 1862 and 1890 land-grant university of the Commonwealth, in accordance with the provisions of applicable federal law, and (i) establishes the Hampton University Land-Grant Restoration Fund for the purpose of supporting the restoration and recognition of Hampton University as a land-grant university; (ii) enumerates the funding and programs Hampton University shall be eligible for as a land-grant university; and (iii) establishes Hampton University's required powers and duties in advancing its mission as a land-grant university of the Commonwealth.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Fiscal Summary: Any amount required to match federal land-grant awards to Hampton University is contingent upon federal award amounts and the match requirements of those awards. It is unclear if the condition to provide funding to Hampton University commensurate with the funding provided to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Virginia State University is intended to provide state general fund support for Hampton University's educational and general academic programming or other operating costs unrelated to land-grant status.

Fiscal Analysis: The bill establishes the Hampton University Land-Grant Restoration Fund and requires moneys in the fund to be used solely to support the restoration and recognition of Hampton University's status as a land-grant institution through the provision of funding to Hampton University commensurate with the funding provided to Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (VT) and Virginia State University (VSU). State funding for the land-grant activity of these institutions is appropriated to the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Agricultural Experiment Station (VT Extension), a separate state agency under VT, and to the Cooperative Extension Agricultural Research Services (VSU Extension), a separate state agency under VSU.

The Governor's introduced budget for the 2026-2028 biennium, HB/SB30, 2026 General Assembly Session, appropriates \$96.3 million general fund each year to the VT Extension and \$9.6 million general fund each year to the VSU Extension to support state match requirements of federal land-grant funds and other state-supported initiatives. Any amount required to match federal land-grant awards to Hampton University is contingent upon federal award amounts and the match requirements of those awards.

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It is unclear if the condition to provide funding to Hampton University commensurate with the funding provided to VT and VSU is intended to provide general fund support for Hampton University's educational and general academic programming or other operating costs unrelated to land-grant status.

Other: Article VIII, Section 10, Constitution of Virginia, prohibits appropriation of public funds to any school or institution of learning not owned or exclusively controlled by the state or some political subdivision thereof.

Article VIII, Section 11, Constitution of Virginia, authorizes the General Assembly to provide for the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof to contract with nonpublic higher education institutions for the provision of educational or other related services.