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

PUBLISHED: 1/26/2026 9:56 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB765 **Patron:** Jones
Bill Title: Charitable gaming; poker events.

Bill Summary: Defines poker event for the purposes of charitable gaming to mean a Texas Hold'em poker game or Texas Hold'em poker tournament in which (i) a schedule of fixed and variable fees for entry into the poker event and the number of chips received for such fees is established and posted; (ii) rebuys, reentries, and add-ons are permitted without limitation; (iii) chips with cash value are permitted to be used; (iv) games and tournaments may be run concurrently; (v) no limit applies to how many poker events occur during the time listed on the permit for such poker event; and (vi) a seating fee may be charged at a rate of up to $8 up to once every 30 minutes. The bill requires any qualified organization that conducts any poker event to use at least 20 percent of its poker adjusted gross receipts, defined in the bill, from the conduct of Texas Hold'em poker tournaments for (a) those lawful religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes for which the organization is specifically chartered or organized or (b) those expenses related to the acquisition, construction, maintenance, or repair of any interest in real property involved in the operation of the organization and used for lawful religious, charitable, community, or educational purposes. The bill also outlines certain specifics related to the conduct of poker events, including remuneration to operators and tips or gratuities paid to dealers and employees of such operators.

Budget Amendment Necessary: **No.** **Items Impacted:** **N/A**
Explanation: This bill involves the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact this bill may have on VDACS can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. There are six total permits currently issued for Texas Hold'em poker. This bill requires the department to issue amended permits consistent with the bill's provisions and new permits consistent with the bill's provisions no later than July 1, 2026. All permitted entities hold tournaments, several of which are weekly, and are inspected by VDACS. VDACS anticipates being able to absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this bill.

Other: None.