

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB404H1

Patron: Reid

Bill Title: Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program; parameters.

Bill Summary: This bill prohibits any institutions that are required to implement and execute the Enslaved Ancestors College Access Scholarship and Memorial Program from passing the cost of any such scholarship program to other enrolled students by increasing the rate of tuition or mandatory fees. The bill also requires the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to (i) establish a work group that consists of a representative of each institution that participates in the Program that meets at least semiannually to discuss Program administration, including sharing best practices on administration and research, coordinating funding and fundraising strategies, developing outreach and marketing plans, collaborating on historical and genealogical research efforts, and aligning government and community engagement initiatives and (ii) develop and maintain a single statewide online portal that describes each institution's program, criteria, and investments in scholarship students or the community, lists designated points of contact at each institution, shares application timelines and processes, and offers historical context and ongoing memorial updates.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: Any fiscal impact will be supported with existing resources.

Fiscal Summary: There is no anticipated fiscal impact to the public institutions of higher education who administer this program.

The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) anticipates the additional program requirements will require increased staff time, and there may be some costs associated with the creation and maintenance of the online portal identified in the bill. Depending on the cumulative impact of additional costs and agency responsibilities from 2026 legislation, SCHEV expects that the agency should be able to support this work with existing resources.

Other: This fiscal impact statement is preliminary and based on feedback received from agencies as of the date of publication.