

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

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
DSS (765) Fatherhood Initiative*	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

*Expenditures related to the Fatherhood Initiative are subject to availability of existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: As substituted, this legislation requires the Virginia Department of Social Services (DSS) to develop and implement the Fatherhood Initiative (the Initiative). The Initiative is required, at minimum, to involve the establishment of a statewide media engagement campaign, as well as collaboration with other state agency partners as deemed appropriate. The bill also requires a local board of social services to ensure it is addressing the unique needs of fathers of children served by the respective local department of social services (LDSS) by conducting an initial assessment of father engagement and creating/implementing an action plan to address any gaps. The bill finally requires DSS to annually review how LDSS are meeting the needs of fathers served in their jurisdictions and utilize data from the local boards as deemed appropriate.

The substitute bill clarifies that DSS shall implement the Initiative using existing resources and by identifying, coordinating, and highlighting existing state and federal funding sources, programs, and services that are currently available. This provision of the bill is distinct from the provisions of the bill requiring local and state assessments related to fatherhood and services provided to fathers. It is assumed that the portions of the bill related to assessment will require additional funding beyond existing resources.

With regard to the provisions of the bill related to the Initiative, it is assumed that DSS will not be responsible for implementing the Initiative if existing resources are not available. To date, DSS has not identified any existing funding available to support such activities. However, a potential cost estimate to implement the provisions of the bill is provided for reference should resources be appropriated by the General Assembly or become available in the future. Additional details for both sections of the bill are provided below.

Needs Assessments and Review

This bill requires local boards of social services and LDSS to ensure that they are addressing the unique needs of fathers of children who are currently served by LDSS. The bill requires local boards to conduct initial assessments of the fathers in their jurisdiction and create an action plan to address any gaps identified through such assessment. DSS reports that most localities will need to allocate existing staff time and resources to support the requirements of the bill; however, it is expected that most localities can absorb the responsibilities associated with such requirements within existing resources. For LDSS who are understaffed or have limited resources available, additional funding and/or staffing may be required to comply with the provisions of the bill; however, the extent to which such resources are required for certain LDSS is indeterminate.

In order to execute the statewide review process, DSS expects that they will need to contract with a third party to develop the initial assessment and annually distribute such standardized assessment across all 120 localities. The cost for this contract is estimated at \$200,000 general fund (GF) annually beginning in FY 2027.

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

Fatherhood Initiative

To implement the provisions of the bill related to the Fatherhood Initiative, DSS anticipates that they will need one new Program Coordinator position, at an estimated GF cost of \$103,499 in FY 2027 and \$131,113 in FY 2028 and subsequent years. This position will be responsible for coordinating statewide father engagement efforts, collaborating with state agencies as necessary, and serving as the primary liaison to LDSS and community organizations. The cost estimate for this position includes all salary, benefits, nonpersonal services, and onboarding costs; the FY 2027 cost is adjusted for three quarters of the fiscal year to account for potential hiring and onboarding delays.

Additionally, DSS anticipates a need for additional resources to support the development and execution of a statewide media campaign as outlined in the bill. DSS' Office of Public Affairs expects that such media campaign will include the development of a website, electronic resources, print materials, television and social media advertisement, and other public events and activities. The estimated cost to develop and implement such media campaign is estimated at \$500,000 GF in FY 2027 and \$100,000 in FY 2028 and each year thereafter.

Again, all estimated expenses associated with implementation of the Fatherhood Initiative are subject to available resources and provided for illustrative purposes only.

Other: n/a