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

Bill Number: HB577 H1   **Patron:**   Glass
Bill Title: Social work; applicants for licensure, criminal background check.

Bill Summary: As substituted, requires applicants for licensure as a baccalaureate social worker, master's social worker, or clinical social worker to provide fingerprints and personal identifying information for a criminal background check, directs the Central Criminal Records Exchange to disseminate criminal history record information obtained to the Board of Social Work, and establishes the process by which an applicant may obtain his criminal history record in the event that such applicant disputes the criminal history information on which a denial of licensure privilege is based. The substitute bill updates Code of Virginia language related to the Central Criminal Records Exchange as it relates to requests for conviction data and the dissemination of criminal history record information obtained through a national background check.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes   **Items Impacted:**   Item 415
Explanation: The Department of State Police (VSP) reports that additional general fund appropriation and positions will be required to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 415 (Information Technology Systems, Telecommunications and Records Management).

Fiscal Summary: As substituted, the Department of State Police (VSP) maintains that the proposed legislation will require additional general fund expenditures for which they are not currently appropriated. No fiscal impact is expected for the Board of Social Work or the Department of Health Professions. See table and fiscal analysis below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
VSP (156)	-	$211,246	$199,511	$199,511	$199,511	$199,511
TOTAL	**-**	**$211,246**	**$199,511**	**$199,511**	**$199,511**	**$199,511**

Position Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
VSP (156)	-	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
TOTAL	**-**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**

Fiscal Analysis: As substituted, this bill requires fingerprint-based criminal background checks for baccalaureate social workers, master's social workers, or clinical social workers and directs the Central Criminal Records Exchange (CCRE) at the Department of State Police (VSP) to disseminate the results of such background checks to the Board of Social Work. Currently, the Civil and Applicant Records Exchange (CARE) at

VSP is tasked with processing criminal history records and background checks. The agency reports that one Fingerprint Technician and one Program Support Technician can process up to 10,000 inked fingerprint cards per year and up to 20,000 electronic fingerprint transmissions. While it is unknown how many background checks will be required as a result of the proposed legislation, the agency reports that CARE is operating at capacity and cannot sustain further workload increases. VSP estimates the cost for one additional Fingerprint Technician Trainee and one additional Program Support Technician at $211,246 the first year (FY 2027) and $199,511 in subsequent years (FY 2028 and thereafter). The cost estimate includes salary, fringe benefits, and non-personnel operating costs for supplies and equipment; the first-year cost also includes one-time onboarding costs for the positions.

Under the bill, the Board of Social Work will receive records of any criminal background checks performed by VSP related to baccalaureate social workers, master's social workers, or clinical social workers seeking a license. It is expected that any workload increases associated with records retention will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a