

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 2426

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Delegate Sickles

3. Committee: Education

4. Title: Revise the Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program grants eligibility

5. Summary: This bill changes the student eligibility criteria for Virginia Guaranteed Assistance Program (VGAP) grants by removing the requirement that the recipient be a dependent and by requiring the recipient to be enrolled full time. It places the following conditions on renewal of VGAP grants:

- no recipient shall receive a subsequent grant until he has satisfied the requirements to advance to the next class level;
- no recipient shall receive more than one year of support per class level for a maximum total of two years of support at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education or more than one year of support per class level for a maximum total of four years of support at a baccalaureate public institution of higher education; and
- no recipient shall receive more than a combined lifetime total of four years of support.

The bill also permits public institutions of higher education to use VGAP funds to provide larger awards to students in a higher class level or to students who enroll in 15 or more credit hours per semester. Finally, the provisions of this bill become effective beginning with the first-time entering freshman class of the fall 2018 academic year.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary (see Section 8)

8. Fiscal Implications: As currently written, it is anticipated that the proposed legislation does not have a fiscal impact. Virginia's public institutions of higher education can only award amounts for the VGAP equal to the level of funding provided by the General Assembly and authorized for distribution by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia. However, additional general fund support would be necessary to avoid potentially smaller award amounts or a reduced number of students receiving an award if the public institutions of higher education decide to provide larger awards to students in a higher class level or to students who enroll in 15 or more credit hours per semester.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia's public institutions of higher education and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB 2427 and SB 1527.

Date: 01/25/17

c: Secretary of Education