

## Department of Planning and Budget

### 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB288

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Freitas

**3. Committee:** Rules

**4. Title:** Carrying a concealed handgun; permit not required.

**5. Summary:** Provides that any person who is otherwise eligible to obtain a concealed handgun permit to do so without a permit anywhere he may lawfully carry a handgun openly within the Commonwealth.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Indeterminate.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The proposed legislation provides that for the sole purpose of carrying a concealed handgun, any person who carries a handgun anywhere he may lawfully do so in the Commonwealth, and who is otherwise qualified pursuant to the Code, may do so without a permit. Additionally, such person is not required to demonstrate competency with a firearm as provided in § 18.2-308.02(B) or § 18.2-308.06. The proposed legislation may not completely eliminate the number of concealed weapons permit applications that need to be processed by the Department of State Police (VSP) and the Courts, but it is possible the total number could be reduced.

Under current law, for a resident permit, applicants may pay a fee of up to \$50. Local law enforcement agencies may charge up to \$35 to cover the cost of conducting an investigation related to the application. This fee includes any amount assessed by the FBI for providing criminal history record information. Additionally, \$10 is paid to the Courts, and \$5 is paid to VSP to cover their application processing costs. Clerk's offices retain five percent of these revenues, which is used for office operational costs. The remainder is deposited into the state treasury. VSP deposits its portion of nonresident fees into the state treasury at the end of each fiscal year. For nonresident permits, the fee is \$100, which is collected by VSP and deposited into the treasury at the end of the fiscal year.

According to VSP, in calendar year 2020, the agency processed 179,513 resident concealed handgun applications, and received a total of \$897,565 in application fees. In the same year, VSP received 7,482 nonresident applications, resulting in \$748,200 in general fund revenue. All fees collected by the VSP in the concealed handgun permit program are deposited into the general fund. The exact impact on these revenues as a result of this proposed legislation is indeterminate at this time.

According to the Courts, HB288 will likely lead to fewer individuals petitioning for concealed handgun permits. However, an estimate of the reduction of permits issued as a result of this proposed legislation, and the associated amount of revenue generated, is indeterminate at this time.

Any potential fiscal impact on local law enforcement agencies is indeterminate at this time.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of State Police, Courts, and local law enforcement agencies.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.