

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** SB159

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Hashmi

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:** Public institutions of higher education; debt collection; transcripts and diplomas.

**5. Summary:** Prohibits public institutions of higher education from (i) refusing to provide a transcript or diploma for a current or former student on the grounds that the student owes a debt; (ii) conditioning the provision of a transcript or diploma for a current or former student on the payment of a debt, other than a fee charged to provide the transcript or diploma; (iii) charging a higher fee to a current or former student for obtaining a transcript or diploma, or providing less favorable treatment of a transcript or diploma request because a current or former student owes a debt; or (iv) using transcript or diploma issuance as a tool for debt collection. The bill states that any violation of these provisions constitutes a prohibited practice and is subject to any and all of the enforcement provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

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

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is possible that this bill could reduce revenues at institutions of higher education due to unpaid debt, but it is not possible to estimate the magnitude of any such effect, and institutions will retain alternative ways to pursue owed debt.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Public institutions of higher education.

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

**11. Other Comments:** Identical to HB732.