Department of Planning and Budget
2025 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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Bill Number: SB791 **Patron:** Head
Bill Title: Practical nursing programs; common curriculum, transferability to registered nursing programs.

Bill Summary: Requires the Virginia Community College System (the System), in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Board of Nursing, and representatives from both associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education that offer nursing programs, to develop a common curriculum for practical nursing programs that shall be implemented at each comprehensive community college in the System that offers a practical nursing program. The bill requires such common curriculum, to the extent possible, to (i) align with the degree requirements for registered nursing programs offered at associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education and baccalaureate public institutions of higher education and (ii) be transferable to each registered nursing program offered at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education or a baccalaureate public institution of higher education. The bill (a) requires each associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education and each baccalaureate public institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program to participate in a practical nursing program to registered nursing program transfer agreement with the System that aligns with the practical nursing program common curriculum established pursuant to the bill and (b) permits any private institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program to be consulted regarding and participate on a voluntary basis in such a transfer agreement.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** None

Explanation: This bill impacts the Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP), public institutions of higher education (IHEs), the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV), and the Virginia Community College System (VCCS). The fiscal impact to public IHEs, SCHEV, and VCCS is indeterminate at this time. There is no fiscal impact to DHP.

Fiscal Summary: Responding public IHEs anticipate potential costs for curriculum and course development, additional personnel, and personnel training; IHEs' ability to absorb these costs depends on the extent to which they are involved with curriculum development, as well as if their existing curriculum will need modification to align with the proposed common curriculum. The provisions of this bill also require SCHEV to coordinate the development of the common curriculum, which will require staff time. SCHEV's ability to absorb the associated staff time and costs will depend on the total number of activities assigned to the agency in the current session. VCCS anticipates expenses related to travel and faculty time to develop curriculum, which are expected to be absorbable. The actual fiscal impact to public IHEs, SCHEV, and VCCS is indeterminate at this time.

Other: This fiscal impact statement is preliminary and based on feedback received from public IHEs as of the date of publication.