

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

draw conclusions; and 4) write a report of that information. However, the provisions of this legislation also requires the formation and facilitation of a workgroup, which includes the actual field work and project management to complete a study.

There is no sampling data on microplastics in the Commonwealth's drinking water, including possible sources of such contamination. Additionally, since microplastics is an unregulated contaminant, a sampling study would be necessary to determine current levels of microplastics in the Commonwealth's public drinking water, including possible sources for microplastics to enter drinking water. There are about 2,870 waterworks in Virginia, with 1,567 community and nontransient noncommunity waterworks in Virginia likely subject to a future maximum contaminant level. The bill does not specify a specific amount of sampling to perform. However, the bill has a report deadline of December 1, 2025 to the Governor and identified members of the General Assembly, which limits the amount of sampling that can occur in that timeframe. VDH expects that no more than 25 samples could be collected and adequately analyzed in time within current resources for results to be included in the December 1, 2025 report. Additionally, VDH estimates that at least 1,000 samples would need to be collected to yield statistically significant data of the concentration of microplastics in drinking water and the associated sources of microplastics.

In September 2022, California became the first state to require microplastic testing in drinking water sources. California's standardized methods for sampling and testing microplastics cost an estimated \$1,000 to \$2,000 per sample. Given the passage of time, VDH estimates a cost of \$2,000 to \$2,600 per sample, to include laboratory analysis and sample collection by a contractor. The three labs estimate the cost to complete a microplastics analysis would be \$1,400 to \$2,000, while the estimated cost to collect a sample for the lab will be \$600. Thus, the appropriate cost range is \$2,000 to \$2,600.

Based on an estimated 25 samples with a cost of \$2,000 to \$2,600 per sample, sampling and laboratory costs would range between \$50,000 to \$65,000. Based on an estimated 1,000 samples with a cost of \$2,000 to \$2,600 per sample, sampling and laboratory costs would range between \$2,000,000 to \$2,600,000. This amount is scalable based on the amount of sampling performed.

Total costs to meet the requirements of this legislation would be \$550,000 to \$3,100,000 based on the number of samples. \$500,000 for the contractor and \$50,000 - \$2,600,000 to collect between 25 and 1,000 samples and associated laboratory costs.

Other: Updated to include additional information from the Virginia Department of Health.