

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB882 **Patron:** Locke
Bill Title: Anesthesiologist assistants; establishes criteria for licensure.

Bill Summary: Establishes criteria for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants and directs the Board of Medicine to adopt regulations governing the practice of anesthesiologist assistants. The bill provides that no person shall use or assume the title "anesthesiologist assistant" or hold himself out as an anesthesiologist assistant unless such person holds a license as an anesthesiologist assistant issued by the Board. This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Commission on Health Care.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 285
Explanation: The Department of Health Professions will need funding and one full-time equivalent position to comply with the requirements of this legislation, attributable to Item 285 (Regulation of Professions and Occupations). See table and fiscal analysis below.

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation will require nongeneral fund expenditures and an additional position for the Department of Health Professions for which they are not currently appropriated. See table and fiscal analysis below.

Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DHP (223)	-	\$99,600	\$99,600	\$99,600	\$99,600	\$99,600
TOTAL	-	\$99,600	\$99,600	\$99,600	\$99,600	\$99,600

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
DHP (223)	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Fiscal Analysis: This legislation requires the Board of Medicine (the Board) to create a new licensure type for anesthesiologist assistants, develop and put forth criteria for successful licensure, and adopt and promulgate regulations governing the practice of anesthesiologist assistants. This legislation also allows the Board to grant provisional licenses to applicants who are awaiting results of a certifying examination and have graduated from an anesthesiologist assistant program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs.

Data gathered from the Healthcare Workforce Data Center at the Virginia Department of Health Professions estimates that there are over 75,000 practitioners currently licensed by the Board. New tasks resulting from

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this legislation such as creating a distinct license type, processing submitted applications, monitoring subsequent renewals, and evaluating applicants for provisional licenses cannot be easily absorbed by existing Board staff, particularly in light of a rising number of licensees across all professions governed by the Board.

To comply with the requirements of this legislation, the Department of Health Professions estimates that they will need to hire one additional FTE employee at pay band 3, for a total cost of \$99,600 annually. This estimate includes salary, fringe benefits, and other non-personnel costs related to operation, training, office supplies, and travel.

Given that Board operations are wholly sustained by practitioner fee revenue, the increase in nongeneral fund appropriation required to sustain this position may need to be generated through a fee increase across all professions subject to Board oversight. In a 2024 report, the Virginia Joint Commission on Health Care noted that there are only 4,000 certified anesthesiologist assistants (CAAs) practicing across the country and there are no CAA training programs in Virginia; considering this, it is not clear that there is a sufficient application pool of anesthesiologist assistants in the Commonwealth for the position to be sustained solely by the fee revenue that would be generated under this new license type.

Other: SB 882 is a companion bill to HB 1647 under a different title. The bill text and summary are identical.