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

PUBLISHED: 1/22/2025 10:23 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: HB2303 **Patron:** Lopez
Bill Title: State Veterinarian; large animal veterinary grant program; report.

Bill Summary: Directs the State Veterinarian to establish a large animal veterinary grant program no later than July 1, 2026, to provide grants to increase or stabilize the number of large animal veterinarians, as defined in the bill, practicing in areas of the Commonwealth that have been identified by the State Veterinarian as having a shortage of such veterinarians. The bill directs the State Veterinarian to annually select from a pool of applicants no more than four large animal veterinarians to participate in the program and to develop, in consultation with the Board of Veterinary Medicine and relevant stakeholders, selection criteria for applicants to participate in the program. The bill also requires the State Veterinarian to submit a report evaluating the extent to which the program has helped to address the shortage of large animal veterinarians in the Commonwealth to the Board and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources and the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources no later than July 1, 2030.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes. **Items Impacted:** 85

Explanation: It is anticipated that the Virginia Department of Consumer Services (VDACS) will require additional funding to implement the provisions of this bill.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that this bill will result in a one-time general fund expenditure of $450,000 to be reflected in a budget amendment to Item 85.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030
301 (VDACS)	$0	$450,000	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	**$0**	**$450,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. It is anticipated that VDACS will require $450,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2026 to establish and execute this program. This amount would allow four awardees to receive grants of $110,000, for a total of $440,000, with $10,000 reserved for administrative expenses. It is anticipated that current staff will be able to absorb the additional work required. VDACS anticipates being able to fully commit but not necessarily fully expend funding in year one of the program, depending on the decisions of the associated work group.

Other: This bill is the companion to SB921.