

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

Fiscal Analysis: ABC's Bureau of Law Enforcement (BLE) special agents have existing authority to enforce Virginia's criminal laws. However, to ensure adequate regulation of the alcohol industry pursuant to the ABC Act and regulations, BLE special agents have a regulatory focus. When there are larceny, fraud, or embezzlement violations at Virginia ABC's government stores, BLE special agents sometimes assume primary investigation and enforcement responsibility. In most cases, BLE special agents assist local law enforcement with the investigation to the extent resources allow but do not take primary responsibility for the investigation and enforcement. Instead, local law enforcement takes primary investigation and enforcement responsibility.

There are over 400 ABC stores throughout the state, and there have been over 7,000 shoplifting incidents within the last year. According to ABC, HB 1925, by requiring BLE to serve as the primary law-enforcement agency for these violations, would necessitate hiring twenty-four additional frontline, sworn law enforcement officers throughout the state, five supervisory law enforcement officers, four civilian administrative staff, and two civilian analysts totaling \$4,365,939.76 annually. Additionally, these law enforcement officers will need training and equipment, such as vehicles, in order to fulfil their duties. These one-time costs will total to \$1,700,714.50 in fiscal year 2026.

All ABC profits transfer to the general fund. Any additional costs incurred by ABC that do not result in additional revenues will reduce the amount of ABC profits going to the general fund. The reduction to ABC profits as a result of this proposal would need to be accounted for under transfers to the general fund in the front page of the budget, as well as in Section 3-1.01.A.2.a.

Other: HB1925 is a companion to SB1297.