

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB2309H1

Patron: Hodges

Bill Title: Department of Health; local health districts and local health departments; guidance for septic and well permits.

Bill Summary: As amended, directs the Department of Health to develop guidance directing local health districts and local health departments to evaluate and recommend solutions to problems with a valid onsite sewage system or private well permit prior to issuing a revocation for such valid onsite sewage system or private well permit. Such guidance requires that, if a revocation for such a permit is issued prior to providing the applicant an opportunity to implement solutions to correct the problem, the local health district or local health department shall include a statement with such revocation indicating the nature of the imminent risk to public health or the environment posed by the onsite sewage system or private well. Such guidance will provide methods for addressing and resolving common onsite sewage system or private well permitting issues proactively as well as working collaboratively with applicants for such a permit to prevent denials or revocations of such a permit while adhering to existing statutory and regulatory requirements. Nothing contained in this act shall prohibit the revocation of an onsite sewage system or private well permit pursuant to relevant statutes and Board of Health regulations.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: None.

Fiscal Summary: Any anticipated impact is minimal and can be absorbed by the Virginia Department of Health.

Fiscal Analysis: The provisions of this legislation would not have a fiscal impact on the Virginia Department of Health. The provisions of this legislation require VDH to develop guidance for local health departments, which will include soliciting input from internal and external stakeholders. The costs of developing guidance can be absorbed by the agency. The guidance will have an indeterminant impact on local health departments to conduct additional outreach to property owners, private sector system designers, and installers. When a design or installation does not comply with the regulations, local health departments may need to provide more one-on-one assistance to private sector designers and installers to correct their deficiencies to avoid permit denials or revocations. Any increase in workload during restaurant inspections is anticipated to be minimal and can be handled within existing resources.

Other: None.