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

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Bill Number: HB2040 S1 **Patron:** Seibold
Bill Title: Speech-language pathology assistants; licensure, qualifications, scope of practice; revocation or suspension of license; continuing education.

Bill Summary: Adds speech-language pathology assistants to the list of professions governed by the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology. The bill also establishes qualifications, scope of practice, and supervision requirements for speech-language pathology assistants. The bill directs the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology to adopt regulations governing the speech-language pathology assistant profession by July 1, 2026, and for the licensure of speech-language pathology assistants to become effective on July 1, 2026. The provisions of this bill are delayed until July 1, 2027 for any person already practicing as an assistant speech-language pathologist pursuant to current language in the *Code of Virginia*.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** n/a
Explanation: Any fiscal impacts are minimal and can be absorbed with existing resources. This bill does not require that language updates be made to the proposed Appropriation Act.

Fiscal Summary: Any fiscal impacts resulting from this legislation are minimal and can be absorbed with existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires that the Board of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology (the Board) create a new licensure category for speech-language pathology assistants (SLPAs). In licensing SLPAs, the Board will be required to establish and publish eligibility pathways, evaluate applications for licensure and license renewal, promulgate regulations related to criteria for licensure, direct and indirect supervision, continuing education requirements, and license renewal, and participate in disciplinary actions or hearings for SLPAs as may be necessary.

A 2024 report from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association identified only 785 licensed speech-language pathology assistants across the United States. The Board similarly expects that the number of applicants for this license type in Virginia will be limited and asserts that the responsibilities associated with this legislation can be handled with existing resources.

Other: n/a