

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

PUBLISHED: 3/10/2025 4:05 PM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB953ER

Patron: Favola

Bill Title: Certain practical nursing programs; common curriculum; transferability to registered nursing programs; pathway of stackable credentials.

Bill Summary: Requires the Virginia Community College System, in consultation with the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, the Board of Nursing, and representatives from associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education that offer nursing programs, to develop a common curriculum for practical nursing programs no later than July 1, 2026, that shall be implemented at each comprehensive community college in the System that offers a practical nursing program. The bill requires such common curriculum, to the extent possible, to (i) align with the degree requirements for registered nursing programs offered at associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education and (ii) be transferable to each registered nursing program offered at an associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education. The bill (a) requires each associate-degree-granting public institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program to participate in a practical nursing program to registered nursing program transfer agreement with the System that aligns with the practical nursing program common curriculum established pursuant to the bill and (b) permits any baccalaureate public institution of higher education that offers a nursing program or private institution of higher education that offers a registered nursing degree program to be consulted regarding and participate on a voluntary basis in such a transfer agreement. The bill also requires the System, the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and each baccalaureate public institution of higher education that offers a nursing program to establish a pathway of stackable nursing credentials that consists of a practical nursing to associate registered nursing to bachelor of science in nursing program pathway. Each of these provisions included in the first enactment shall become effective July 1, 2026. Lastly, requires the Virginia Community College System to submit a progress report on the implementation of the provisions from the first enactment to the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than December 1, 2025.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Explanation: This bill impacts the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and other institutions of higher education (IHEs) that offer nursing programs, the Virginia Department of Health Professions (DHP), and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV). The fiscal impact to VCCS is indeterminate at this time; however, VCCS anticipates any impact to develop the common curriculum by July 1, 2026, can be absorbed. It's anticipated that the impact to DHP, SCHEV, and other IHEs can be supported with existing resources.

Fiscal Summary: The provisions of this bill require SCHEV, the Board of Nursing, and associate-degree-granting public institutions of higher education that offer nursing programs to coordinate with VCCS in the development of a common curriculum for practical nursing programs, which will require staff time. SCHEV, DHP, and Richard Bland College anticipate that the fiscal impact is absorbable. VCCS anticipates expenses

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related to travel and faculty time to develop the curriculum for practical nursing programs, which are expected to be absorbable.

Additionally, the bill requires VCCS, SCHEV, and other IHEs to establish a pathway of stackable nursing credentials. VCCS anticipates the potential need for an additional full-time position to assist with the establishment and maintenance of the pathway of stackable nursing credentials per the provisions of this bill. This provision has a delayed enactment of July 1, 2026, so any related fiscal impact is expected to be in FY27. The actual fiscal impact to VCCS is indeterminate at this time. Any impact to other IHEs or SCHEV to consult with VCCS on the pathway of stackable nursing credentials from practical nursing to associate registered nursing to bachelor of science in nursing is indeterminate but anticipated to be supported by existing resources.

Other: This bill is identical to HB2548.