

**Department of Planning and Budget**  
**2026 General Assembly Session**  
**State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB98

**Patron:** Stanley

**Bill Title:** Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Grant Program and Fund established; work group; report.

**Bill Summary:** Establishes the Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Grant Program and Fund, within the Department of Emergency Management, for the purpose of awarding grants to political subdivisions to assist with the cost of emergency management and preparedness. The bill directs the Department to establish guidelines for the administration of the Program and awarding grants from the Fund to political subdivisions. The bill requires a political subdivision awarded a grant to (i) use such grant funds for certain purposes to advance the emergency preparedness of such political subdivision and (ii) provide a 50 percent match of local or federal funds for the award. The bill also requires the Department, beginning on or before December 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, to submit a report to the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security, the Governor, and the Chairs of the House Committee on Public Safety and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations summarizing the activities of the Program.

Lastly, the bill directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to establish a work group to study existing emergency management needs and analyze sustainability of current funding, among other things, and to report the work group's findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on General Laws and the Senate Committee on General Laws and Technology on or before October 1, 2026.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** 1, 398

**Explanation:** Additional funding is needed to support work group participation costs and one-time contractor costs associated with the work group. Nongeneral fund appropriation is needed to support ongoing costs for one position.

**Fiscal Summary:** The Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) anticipates the need for one position to support administration of the grant program, with an estimated annual cost of \$158,837. The bill language stipulates that VDEM may use 2.5 percent of the grant funds to cover program administrative costs. VDEM anticipates that this will be sufficient to cover the position.

VDEM also anticipates the need to hire a contractor to establish the work group and produce the report required in the enactment clause of the proposed legislation. The estimated one-time cost for the contractor is \$130,000.

The compensation cost for House and Senate member participation in the work group is estimated to be \$1,200.

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**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
GA of Virginia		\$131,200	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$131,200</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
		\$158,837	\$158,837	\$158,837	\$158,837	\$158,837
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$158,837</b>	<b>\$158,837</b>	<b>\$158,837</b>	<b>\$158,837</b>	<b>\$158,837</b>

**Nongeneral Fund Position Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
VDEM		1	1	1	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

**Fiscal Analysis:** According to VDEM, there is no expected fiscal impact to the general fund as a result of the establishment and administration of the Program and Fund in accordance with the proposed bill. VDEM anticipates that to administer the Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Grant Program, the agency would need one additional full-time employee (Financial Services Manager I / Grants Program Manager). The estimated cost for the position is \$158,837, including \$132,003 for salary and benefits, and \$26,834 in overhead. The bill language stipulates that VDEM may use 2.5 percent of the grant funds to cover program administrative costs. VDEM anticipates that this will be sufficient to cover the fiscal impacts of the additional position.

An enactment clause directs the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security (SPSHS) to establish a work group to study existing emergency management needs and analyze sustainability. The enactment clause also gives the SPSHS the option to hire a contractor to carry out this responsibility. It is expected that VDEM would assume responsibility for establishing the work group, in coordination with the SPSHS. The timeline outlined in the bill would be in the height of hurricane season for VDEM, which supports the need for outside staff. Based on pre-negotiated emergency services contractor rates from prior similar projects and a projected a two-month performance period for the contractual costs, the estimated one-time contractor cost to support the requirements of the proposed legislation is \$130,000.

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The enactment clause also requires representatives from the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations and the House Committee on Appropriations to participate in the work group. If a member of the General Assembly attends the work group meeting, it is estimated the member compensation will be approximately \$300 for the House and \$300 for the Senate per meeting and will be paid by the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Clerk of the Senate. The travel expenses are expected to be \$397 per meeting for the House and \$397 per meeting for the Senate and will be paid for by VDEM unless it is unfunded, in which case expenses will be paid out of the offices of the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Clerk of the Senate. Assuming two meetings and two participants, costs for the House/Senate members included are \$1,200 for compensation (under Item 1) and \$1,588 for travel.

If a staff member from the House Appropriations Committee or the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee can attend the meetings as a designee, there would be no fiscal impact to attend work group meetings unless travel outside of Richmond is required.

The amount of funding provided for the newly created Virginia Emergency Management Preparedness and Capabilities Fund will be dependent on what is authorized by the General Assembly.

**Other:** HB169 creates the same program and fund, however that legislation does not direct the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to convene a work group.