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

PUBLISHED: 1/26/2026 8:56 AM **ORIGINAL**

Bill Number: SB635 **Patron:** McDougle
Bill Title: Emergency Services and Disaster Law; declaration of a state of preparedness.

Bill Summary: Authorizes the Governor to declare a state of preparedness, defined in the bill, when, in his opinion, the safety and welfare of the people of the Commonwealth require the exercise of emergency measures due to a threatened or actual disaster. The bill also establishes the Cardinal Disaster Relief Fund to be administered by the Coordinator of Emergency Management for (i) costs and expenses related to preventing and mitigating damage, loss, hardship, or suffering due to anticipated impacts of an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of preparedness, or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency and (ii) procurement, maintenance, and replenishment of materials, equipment, and supplies, in such quantities to ensure readiness and protect the public peace, health, and safety and to preserve the lives and property and economic well-being of the people of the Commonwealth prior to and during an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of preparedness or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on state agencies.

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), the proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on agency operations.

Other: The Governor's Introduced Budget provides one-time funding of $35 million in fiscal year 2027 for the Cardinal Disaster Relief Fund.

This is a companion bill to HB1189.