

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB146

**Patron:** Williams

**Bill Title:** Health Care Learning Lab and Regulatory Improvement Program; established, report, sunset.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to establish the Health Care Learning Lab and Regulatory Improvement Program to enable a person to obtain limited access to the market in the Commonwealth to temporarily test an innovative health care product or service on a limited basis without otherwise being licensed or authorized to act under the laws of the Commonwealth. Under the Program, an applicant requests the waiver of certain laws, regulations, or other requirements for a 24-month testing period, with an option to request an additional six-month testing period. The bill provides application requirements, consumer protections, procedures for exiting the program or requesting an extension, and recordkeeping and reporting requirements. The bill requires VDH to provide an annual report to the Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health that provides information regarding each program participant and recommendations regarding the effectiveness of the program. The bill directs the Board of Health to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill and has an expiration date of July 1, 2030.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** 279

**Explanation:** The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will require additional general fund appropriation to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 279 (Health Research, Planning, and Coordination - Regulation of Health Care Facilities).

**Fiscal Summary:** Establishment of the Health Care Learning Lab and Regulatory Improvement Program as required by the bill would have a fiscal impact on VDH. The legislation's provisions create a new application and review process for participation in this program. Without additional funding support VDH cannot absorb the added workload.

**Expenditure Impact:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>	<b>FY2029</b>	<b>FY2030</b>	<b>FY2031</b>
VDH (601)	-	\$55,629	\$55,629	\$55,629	\$55,629	-

**Fiscal Analysis:** The bill provides that VDH review applications, perform necessary consultations, draft recommendations, manage the program, and develop an annual report. VDH estimates that one part-time position would be needed to meet the bill's provisions. The cost of a wage Policy and Planning Specialist I position (1,500 hours a year) is estimated to be \$55,629 per year (personal and nonpersonal services). It is assumed that costs would end after the bill's expiration on July 1, 2030. Depending on the volume of consultations requested, additional staff or other resources may be necessary. The Board of Health is authorized to establish an application fee for participation in the program which can be used for the administration and operation of the program. It is unknown if the fee schedule developed and the number of applications would be sufficient to cover the administration of the program. The expenditure impact reflects

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the estimated cost of fulfilling the legislative requirements. If insufficient fee revenue is generated, then general fund support would be necessary to cover the estimated costs. Any cost to promulgate regulations can be handled within existing resources.

**Other:** None