

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2026 General Assembly Session | 02/02/26

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

Hb 707: State government; transaction of public business; prohibited website domains (Patron: Hayes, Jr.)

Bill Summary: Prohibits a public body from maintaining an official website for use by the public with a domain other than a .gov domain. The bill provides that any email address that a public body provides to its employees shall utilize a .gov domain. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2027.

Local Fiscal Impact: Net Additional Expenditure: X Net Reduction of Revenues: _____

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 6 Cities, 9 Counties, 1 Town, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact of 2,000 to 1,056,000 over the biennium.

Localities identified the bill's fiscal impact as related to both recurring and one-time expenses. Localities not currently using a .gov domain incur recurring IT personnel support costs for security and abuse monitoring, platform maintenance, and operational updates. Localities not utilizing a .gov domain project moderate to significant one-time expenditures related to migration to a .gov domain, contracting with engineers to implement IT changes of migration, domain acquisition, website/application remediation and content updates; redirects, SEO preservation, and analytics reconfiguration; email/identity transition and other costs related to communication of the changes.

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Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

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Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Albemarle County	The County would face one-time IT costs to migrate its public website from a .org to a .gov domain, including technical reconfiguration, testing, and redirects. Additional one-time costs would be incurred to transition employee email accounts to a .gov domain and provide staff support during the change. The financial impact is expected to be moderate and largely transitional, primarily involving staff time and possible consultant services rather than ongoing expenses.
Augusta County	
Bedford County	
City of Alexandria	The fiscal impact of this bill is unquantifiable
City of Manassas	
City of Norfolk	No anticipated significant fiscal impact as the City of Norfolk already uses .gov website and email.
City of Richmond	No cost.
City of Virginia Beach	The City of Virginia Beach already uses a .gov domain for its primary web presence (virginiabeach.gov) but has non .gov domains for email services and some online websites. For emails alone, it would cost \$100-200 per user to migrate mailboxes over to a .gov domain, resulting in costs between \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 for 5,000 employees. Two engineers would likely be needed for four to six months in order to implement the IT related changes, which could cost the City anywhere between \$24,000 to \$52,500 or more depending on the contract type and length. There would also be costs associated with updating physical branding like business cards and vehicle decals, and increases in personnel workloads to implement the changes.
City of Winchester	We estimate approx 10 websites would be affected by HB707. These costs are to manage internally, the one time requests are for new paper, cards, etc.
Roanoke County	For any of Roanoke County's sites affected, we can get a .gov domain for no charge as long as they are eligible. Our website provider, Civic Plus may have a charge, but at this time we do not know.
Fauquier County	excluding the websites hosted by GIS, the estimate is approximately 202,083. This excludes the cost of ESRI (85,000), Avenity(85,000), the CAMA Vision portal (49555), and the base website (10,500). Total combined for all is: 432,138.
Hanover County	The County's primary website uses a .gov domain, but several individual departments and the School Board have different domains. The estimate is for one-time costs related to professional services, IT support and communications to change the domains for those websites.
Northern Neck PDC	For tourism and other outreach activities (environmental collaboration), the NNPDC would have to buy new domains and migrate the content to these new sites.
Prince George County	There is no expected fiscal impact for Prince George County. Our website and primary email currently utilize .gov.

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Pulaski County	<p>Non-recurring (one-time) costs include: Domain Acquisition and Governance; DNS, Certificates, and Security Controls; Website/Application Remediation and Content Updates; Redirects, SEO Preservation and Analytics Reconfiguration; Email/Identity Transition; Communications, Brand, Collateral and Partner Updates; Program/Contractor Support and Project Management - Could reasonably cost anywhere from \$350,000 to \$600,000.</p> <p>Recurring ongoing costs include: Redirect and Legacy Domain Retention; Security and Abuse Monitoring; Platform/Operational Updates - Total ongoing annual cost could range from \$20,000 to \$105,000.</p> <p>There is also the non-financial operational impacts / risks that include: SEO and traffic loss risk (short-term), especially for virginia.org marketing campaigns and backlinks. Partner disruption due to outdated links in materials, third-party listings, and syndicated content. Email deliverability and identity risk during domain/email changeover (DMARC alignment, trust reset). User confusion and increased support calls post-cutover. Cybersecurity risk (spoofing/phishing) heightened during transition window</p>
Rappahannock County	
Town of Chincoteague	