

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB829

Patron: Helmer

Bill Title: Hospital price transparency; price comparison tool; penalties for noncompliance.

Bill Summary: Directs the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to establish a hospital price transparency comparison tool based on the information hospitals provide under existing law and the information available through the Virginia All-Payer Claims Database (APCD). The bill specifies that the list of standard charges provided by the hospital controls in the event of a dispute between a hospital and a patient over a patient payment amount and requires hospitals to discharge debt and not require payment for any elective procedure, test, or service for which the patient payment amount is disputed and there is not a standard charge made available to the public on the hospital's website on the date such elective procedure, test, or service is performed.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 279

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

Fiscal Summary: VDH would utilize its current contract with Virginia Health Information (VHI) to meet the provisions of the legislation. General fund resources are necessary to cover VHI contract costs for the collection of price transparency data provided by hospitals and consolidating that with information made available through the Virginia All-Payer Claims Database. This funding would also be used for the development and maintenance of the hospital price transparency comparison tool.

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>
VDH (601)		\$345,000	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$275,000

Fiscal Analysis: The scope of work anticipated by VHI includes the creation of an online web tool for the submission of data by hospitals, which would require the modification of an existing hospital data reporting system. This data would then be validated to ensure its accuracy against historical pricing and payment rates currently reported to the All-Payer Claims Database.

Based on independent estimates, the cost in the first year for VDH to contract with VHI would be \$345,000 for the initial development of the tool and for any data collection and validation necessary. The ongoing cost for VHI to fulfill requirements of the bill and maintain the online tool and update the necessary data would be \$275,000 annually thereafter.

Other: None