

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB813

Patron: Lucas

Bill Title: Sickle Cell Coordinated Access Network; established.

Bill Summary: Directs the State Health Commissioner to establish the Sickle Cell Coordinated Access Network to provide health care providers in the Commonwealth with real-time consultation and support from sickle cell specialists.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Preliminary

Items Impacted: 277 - Preliminary

Explanation: The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will require additional general fund appropriation to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 277 (State Health Services). Any direct fiscal impact on the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems Authority is unavailable at this time. Should information be provided, this fiscal impact statement will be revised.

Fiscal Summary: The provisions of this legislation would require VDH to collaborate with the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems (VCUHS) Authority to establish and maintain the Sickle Cell Coordinated Access Network. The bill states that the Network would be “under the Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems Authority.” As such, it is unclear if VDH or VCUHS is ultimately responsible for the Network. However, the fiscal analysis reflects cost estimates provided by VDH for what it would take for that agency to establish and maintain the Network working through VCUHS.

Currently, VDH does not have a program with the capacity to provide health care providers with real time access to consultation and support services from sickle cell specialists. VDH does have two existing contractual agreements with VCU to provide pediatric and adult sickle cell services; however, neither program has the capacity to provide the level of support outlined in the bill. It is assumed that VDH would collaborate and contract with VCUHS Authority to establish and maintain the Network. Any direct fiscal impact on the VCUHS Authority is unavailable at this time.

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)	-	\$2,379,635	\$2,379,635	\$2,379,635	\$2,379,635	\$2,379,635

Fiscal Analysis: The proposed legislation requires VDH to establish and maintain the Sickle Cell Coordinated Access Network, in collaboration with and under VCUHS Authority, for the purpose of providing health care providers in the Commonwealth with real-time consultation and support from sickle cell specialists. It is unclear how VDH would be able to create and maintain a network “under the VCUHS.” Therefore, for the purposes of this statement, it is assumed that VDH would contract with VCUHS for the Network and would be responsible for associated costs. To the extent that VCUHS provides revenue or support for this effort, costs may be less than reported.

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To meet the provisions of the bill, the Sickie Cell Coordinated Access Network must be able to offer real-time consultation and support from sickie cell specialists at all times. VDH does not have sufficient resources to meet these provisions. VDH reports that maintaining the Sickie Cell Network would require additional staffing, as well as a contract with pediatric and adult sickie cell centers across the state to provide consultations. VDH provided an estimate of the effort and associated cost necessary to establish and maintain the Network as follows:

- Ten Nurse Practitioners (\$1,652,000 general fund)
 - Responsible for providing on-call consultations for sickie cell disease (SCD) and sickie cell trait (SCT) for health care providers located at each center.
- One Nurse Practitioner Supervisor (\$165,200 general fund)
 - Responsible for triaging calls, providing technical assistance to nurse practitioners, working with the hematologist as needed, and providing training statewide to increase clinical knowledge.
- One Program Coordinator (\$90,738 general fund)
 - Responsible for overseeing contracts and agreements with VDH and sickie cell network partners/sub-contractors, communicating with and reporting to VDH, scheduling of on-call providers, helping triage calls, and organizing training.
- A portion (0.25 FTE) of a Hematologist (\$100,450 general fund)
 - Responsible for supervision and consultation with nurse practitioners, providing expertise on complex cases that require physician support, and helping to manage the network.

Additional costs for program support include supplies, training and education for clinical staff, and telecommunications are estimated to be \$28,020. The total cost of the Network would be \$2,036,408. As it is assumed that VDH would contract with VCUHS for the Network, VDH assumes an indirect cost rate of 15 percent, which would require \$305,462 from the general fund.

VDH also identified a need of \$33,265 general fund to support a portion of an existing Sickie Cell Program Coordinator position. Currently, this position's salary comes from Title V federal funds, which cannot be used for this effort. Those funds would be reallocated to other Title V work should VDH receive this funding. The Sickie Cell Program Coordinator would be responsible for developing scope of services, contract management, budget oversight and justification, providing technical assistance as needed, and providing education and awareness on the program across the state. This would include communicating with individuals who have Sickie Cell Disease and Sickie Cell Trait, educating providers, collaborating on educational materials, and coordinating resources with other VDH Sickie Cell programs.

VDH estimates it would need \$4,500 to produce educational materials, staff training, and outreach efforts.

Other: This bill is similar to SB813.