

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB1418

**Patron:** McQuinn

**Bill Title:** Sickle Cell Trait Awareness and Education Program established.

**Bill Summary:** Directs the Department of Health to establish the Sickle Cell Trait Awareness and Education Program to raise public awareness of and education on sickle cell trait.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** 277

**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).

**Fiscal Summary:** VDH is required to establish and administer the Sickle Cell Trait Awareness and Education Program (the Program). The Program would include and would provide public awareness campaigns, educational resources, training to professionals (health care providers, genetic counselors, school nurses, and educators), conduct community outreach, and coordinate with the existing infrastructure for screening and treatment of sickle cell trait (SCT) and sickle cell disease (SCD). Additionally, the Program would provide information on screening services and newborn screening services. VDH reports that additional funding and a position are necessary to implement the bill's provisions.

**General Fund 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)	-	\$382,230	\$372,230	\$372,230	\$372,230	\$372,230

**Position Impact:**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>FY2026</b>	<b>FY2027</b>	<b>FY2028</b>	<b>FY2029</b>	<b>FY2030</b>	<b>FY2031</b>
VDH (601)	-	1	1	1	1	1

**Fiscal Analysis:** The provisions of the bill require VDH's Sickle Cell Program to expand its outreach, education, and awareness campaigns to health care providers and the community. VDH administers several programs that raise awareness and serve individuals with blood disorders, including SCD. Currently, VDH's Virginia Sickle Cell Awareness Program (VASCAP) provides education and screening of individuals for sickle cell anemia or SCT, as well as other genetically related hemoglobinopathies.

The bill would require VDH to expand the work that VASCAP currently does to include SCT education and awareness. This would require public awareness campaigns, developing educational resources for specific populations, expanding the content of current training modules to include SCT, and conducting community outreach. VDH does not currently have sufficient resources to expand education and awareness outreach

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efforts related to sickle cell. VDH reports that the following resources would be needed to fully meet the bill's provisions:

- One Program Administrator II (\$104,730 general fund annually, including salary and benefits)
  - Responsible for managing contracts, overseeing public awareness campaigns, working with a media company to develop educational resources for providers and the community, and developing training modules.
- Education and Outreach (\$7,500 general fund annually)
  - Includes participation and travel for regional provider conferences, staff training, and webinar licenses.
- Module Development (\$15,000 general fund in FY 2027 and \$5,000 thereafter)
  - Cost to contract with the University of Virginia (UVA) Continuing Medical Education office to design and establish two modules with a focus on SCT for providers and individuals. VASCAP has an established contract with UVA for its current program to develop modules.
- Public Awareness Campaigns (\$255,000 general fund annually)
  - Cost to contract with a media company to design and implement a robust community campaign on SCT education and awareness. This estimate includes traditional media, social media engagement, printed media, and developing consistent messaging that provides SCT education.

Based on these assumptions, VDH estimates a total general fund impact of \$382,230 in FY 2027 and \$372,230 in FY 2028 and each fiscal year thereafter to support expanded sickle cell trait education, awareness, and outreach activities.

**Other:** None