

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

PUBLISHED: 2/2/2026 4:36 PM

REVISED

Bill Number: HB475 **Patron:** Watts
Bill Title: Mass Violence Care Fund established.

Bill Summary: Creates the Mass Violence Care Fund as a subfund within the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund for the purpose of reimbursing victims or claimants of mass violence, defined in the bill, for unreimbursed medical expenses related to a mass violence event, defined in the bill. The bill directs the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission to promulgate guidelines and criteria for the payment of claims from the Mass Violence Care Fund within one year of the effective date of the bill.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 488

Explanation: The proposed legislation is expected to have an ongoing annual cost of up to \$2.2 million to pay for the Workers' Compensation Commission's administrative expenses. The Workers' Compensation Commission anticipates a one-time cost to pay for automation changes to their claims system. Additionally, the legislation establishes a five-person Mass Violence Care Fund Advisory Board for the purpose of annually reviewing the operation of the Fund and management of funds. There is projected to be an annual cost of \$5,000 to fund per diems for four meetings each year.

Fiscal Summary: According to the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC), two additional full-time equivalents (FTE) would be needed to administer the Mass Violence Care Fund. The estimated annual cost of each employee, inclusive of salary and benefits, is \$100,000. Other annual costs to administer the provisions of this bill include up to \$2.0 million each year to establish and conduct a public information program, and \$5,000 annually to fund per diems for the Advisory Board. There is projected to be a one-time cost of \$170,000 for the VWC to automate changes to its claims system.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
Workers' Compensation Commission		\$2,375,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000
TOTAL	\$2,375,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000	\$2,205,000

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

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
Workers' Compensation Commission		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
TOTAL		2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00

Fiscal Analysis: The proposed legislation requires VWC to establish the Mass Violence Care Fund within the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund. The VWC projects that it would need two additional FTEs to administer the Fund. The estimated annual personnel cost is \$100,000 for each employee inclusive of salary and benefits. VWC estimates a one-time cost of \$170,000 to pay for changes to its claims automation system.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation requires the VWC to establish and conduct a public information program, create a Mass Violence Care Fund website to ensure extensive and continued publicity of the Fund. The public information program will include brochures, posters, and public service advertisements for television, radio, and print media. The VWC estimates that this public information program could cost up to \$2.0 million per year.

Additionally, this bill establishes the Mass Violence Care Fund Advisory Board (the Advisory Board) for the purpose of annually reviewing the general operation of the Fund and management of funds in the Fund. The Advisory Board shall have a total membership of five members that shall consist of five nonlegislative citizen members, each selected by a member of the Senior Leadership team of the Commission. Such members shall be selected from stakeholder groups, including victim services organizations, the Virginia Victims Fund, and the Victim/Witness Grant Program and Financial Services Office within the Department of Criminal Justice Services. Any such nonlegislative citizen members of the Advisory Board shall be citizens of the Commonwealth. The VWC estimates an annual cost of \$5,000 to pay for the per diems of four meetings each year.

The VWC indicates there is no appropriate nongeneral fund revenue source to cover administrative expenses. The current appropriation in Central Accounts for the Mass Violence Care Fund solely covers programmatic costs.

Other: This bill is nearly identical to the HB1711 substitute (2025 Session).