

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB1464 **Patron:** Shin  
**Bill Title:** Victims of crime; reimbursement for expenses; Coordinator of the Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordination Program; work group.

**Bill Summary:** Provides that all medical fees expended in the gathering of evidence through anonymous trace evidence collection kit examinations conducted on victims complaining of strangulation pursuant to relevant law shall be paid by the Commonwealth through the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund (also known as the Virginia Victims Fund) administered by the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission. The bill states that such victims shall not be required to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law-enforcement authorities in order to be provided with such medical exams. Under current law, all medical fees expended in the gathering of evidence through physical evidence recovery kit examinations conducted on victims complaining of sexual assault are paid by the Commonwealth via the Fund, and victims complaining of sexual assault are not required to participate in the criminal justice system or cooperate with law-enforcement authorities in order to be provided with such forensic medical exams. The bill expands the powers and duties of the Commission to adopt, promulgate, amend, and rescind suitable rules and regulations to include a distinct policy for the payment of anonymous trace evidence collection kit examinations and requires that the Coordinator of the Virginia Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner Coordination Program be a registered nurse, licensed in the Commonwealth, with experience as a forensic nurse. Lastly, the bill directs the Director of the Department of Criminal Justice Services to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders to discuss and submit recommendations for certain matters related to the reimbursement process for forensic medical examinations, enumerated in the bill. The bill directs the work group to submit a report with recommendations to the Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Human Services, the House Committee on Appropriations, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Senate Committee on Finance and Appropriations by November 1, 2026.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 392

**Explanation:** The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) anticipates costs for the workgroup and the transition to a forensic nurse as the SAFE coordinator. The cost in the first year is \$107,846 and \$41,865 in subsequent years.

**Fiscal Summary:** See above explanation.

**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>
DCJS		\$107,846	\$41,865	\$41,865	\$41,865	\$41,865
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$107,846</b>	<b>\$41,865</b>	<b>\$41,865</b>	<b>\$41,865</b>	<b>\$41,865</b>

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**Fiscal Analysis:** The Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) anticipates general fund expenses related to transitioning the SAFE coordinator to a forensic nurse, as well as the required work group for meeting logistics and expenses and subject matter expertise to inform the work group.

The Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission (VWC) anticipates one-time technology costs of \$130,000 general fund and \$100,000 annually cover the anticipated number of new exams. General fund appropriation is already Sexual Assault Forensic Examination (SAFE) is provided to the Virginia Victims Fund. VWC confirms these costs are absorbable within the Virginia Victims Fund.

The Department of General Services' Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) currently receives general fund appropriation to receive, track, store, and distribute kits to an approved laboratory for analysis. DCLS does not perform sample collection or testing. DCLS currently has sufficient staffing and financial resources to accommodate the potential increase in kits that may materialize under this legislation.

The Virginia Department of Health and Commonwealth Attorneys' Services Council do not anticipate any fiscal impact from the workgroup in this bill. The legislation provides that the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court is to serve on the workgroup and while their fiscal impact assessment is not available yet, it is assumed no fiscal impact is expected.

**Other:** This bill is a companion bill to SB812.