

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB695

Patron: Hayes

Bill Title: Restaurants; sodium warning label required, civil penalty.

Bill Summary: Requires restaurants with three or more locations in the Commonwealth to display on its menu a sodium warning label next to or beneath each menu item containing 2,300 milligrams or more of sodium. Restaurants that violate the provisions of this bill shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 per violation.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate

Items Impacted: Indeterminate

Explanation: See below

Fiscal Summary: Any increase in workload for the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to check for sodium label warnings on a restaurant's menu can be handled within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: It is assumed that VDH restaurant inspectors would check for such labels during the course of normal inspections.

The bill may result in additional state revenues from civil penalties of up to \$500 per occurrence. The magnitude of any such revenues is indeterminate, as it depends on the frequency of violations and enforcement actions. It is unknown whether any such penalties would require the services of the Office of Attorney General's Division of Debt Collection or would require contracting with a private collection agency.

Other: None