

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB567

Patron: Sturtevant

Bill Title: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Virginia Family Grocery Basket; civil penalty.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (the Department) to establish and maintain on its website a standardized list of no more than 25 essential grocery items known as the Virginia Family Grocery Basket that includes common household staple food items including milk, bread, eggs, and various types of proteins, grains, and produce. The bill requires a large grocery retail chain, as defined in the bill, to submit to the Department average retail prices for such Basket items on a monthly basis for each locality in which the large grocery retail chain operates and to publish such information on its website beginning on April 1, 2027. The bill directs the Department to issue a written notice of noncompliance for violations of the bill and to provide a 30 day period to rectify such violations, after which the Department may assess a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each day of violation following such 30 day period.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

Items Impacted: 86

Explanation: It is anticipated that the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will require additional funding to implement the provisions of this bill.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that this bill will result in a general fund expenditure of \$571,706 in FY 2027 and \$196,706 each year thereafter, and an indeterminate general fund revenue impact.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
301 (VDACS)	-	\$571,706	\$196,706	\$196,706	\$196,706	\$196,706
TOTAL	-	\$571,706	\$196,706	\$196,706	\$196,706	\$196,706

Fiscal Analysis: This statement is preliminary. The Milk Commission, housed under VDACS, has surveyed grocery stores in the Richmond and Norfolk metro area for grocery staples since the mid-1980s. This information is posted on the VDACS website under the “Market Basket.” To do so, Milk Commission staff conduct monthly surveys of approximately seven grocery stores in each of these two regions. As the bill is written, the items surveyed could remain the same, however, the frequency and number of stores surveyed would be expanded. This bill would require the department to survey grocery retail chains. This would result in a significant number of reports.

VDACS anticipates needing additional resources to expand their reporting, maintain the basket definition, validate submission, and enforce compliance: \$100,000 in recurring costs for a subscription service monitoring prices to supplement and confirm the surveys of the program manager and reports submitted by the grocery

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chains and an estimated \$375,000 in one-time costs to set up a statewide reporting system for grocery stores to access and report their prices.

VDACS also anticipates needing to hire a program manager at a cost of approximately \$96,706 for salary, fringe, and overhead. Thus, the total anticipated fiscal impact would be \$375,000 one-time and \$196,706 recurring.

VDACS is unable to estimate the amount of revenue that would come from civil penalties. Any such revenue is to be deposited to the general fund.

Other: None.