

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB674

Patron: Maldonado

Bill Title: Department of Health; collection and annual publication of food insecurity information.

Bill Summary: Directs the Department of Health, as part of its participation in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, to collect information pursuant to the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module: Six-Item Short Form developed by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, organize such information based on the locality of the respondent, and publish such information annually, by November 1, on its website.

Budget Amendment Necessary: See below

Items Impacted: 277

Explanation: The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) may require additional general fund appropriation to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 277 (State Health Services).

Fiscal Summary: The provisions of the bill would require VDH to mandate the collection of food insecurity data, make such information available by locality, and publish the information annually.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
VDH (601)	-	\$0 -\$426,527	\$0 -\$426,527	\$0 -\$426,527	\$0 -\$426,527	\$0 -\$426,527

Fiscal Analysis: VDH uses a specialized contractor to manage the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). The provisions of the bill would require the contractor to add questions to the BRFSS and expand data collection. The bill states that such information shall be organized by the locality of the respondents. Such information must be published on VDH's website annually. It is assumed that minimal adherence to the provisions of this legislation can be handled within existing resources.

However, if the intent of the bill is to provide statistically valid local estimates, additional resources may be needed. Currently, the BRFSS only displays data at the health district level, which is much broader than locality level data. While VDH currently surveys respondents in all localities and collects location data, VDH maintains that there are not enough respondents per locality to be able to publish data representing a locality with statistical accuracy. To accommodate this lack of data, VDH would increase the sample size for surveys performed, from 5,500 to 8,000.

This would result in increased costs to the contractor to survey additional respondents, extend interview length to accommodate additional questions required by the U.S. Household Food Security Survey Module: Six-Item Short Form, and conduct statistical analysis. Cost estimates for providing additional statistical analysis are as follows:

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- BRFSS Module Additions (\$36,000): VDH utilizes a standardized cost of \$6,000 per optional and state-added question.
- Sample Expansion and Data Collection (\$250,500): Cost per cell and landline completed surveys at \$100.20 per survey completed times the increase in sample size of 2,500.
- Statistical Analysis of Locality Data (\$140,027): Supports the contractor's Data Processing Manager and Statistician roles responsible for the complex cleaning and weighting necessary for high-quality, local-level results.

Other: None