

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB576

Patron: Glass

Bill Title: Dietitian Licensure Compact; authorizes Virginia to be a signatory to Compact.

Bill Summary: Authorizes Virginia to be a signatory to the Dietitian Licensure Compact in order to increase public access to dietetics services and provide opportunities for interstate practice by licensed dietitians who meet uniform requirements. The Compact is presently in effect, as it has reached the enactment threshold of seven member states.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Unknown **Items Impacted:** n/a

Explanation: While signing onto the Dietitian Licensure Compact is not expected to result in a fiscal impact to state agencies, should the bill be interpreted to require that the Commonwealth establish a licensure pathway for dietitians, new nongeneral fund appropriation and positions may be necessary for the Department of Health Professions.

Fiscal Summary: No fiscal impact is currently expected for state agencies as Virginia is ineligible for the Dietitian Licensure Compact. In the event that Virginia establishes a licensure pathway for dietitians in the future to become eligible for the Dietitian Licensure Compact, there will be an indeterminate fiscal impact to the Department of Health Professions.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill authorizes Virginia to become a member of the Dietitian Licensure Compact (the Compact). To be eligible to participate in the Compact, states must license and regulate the practice of dietetics and have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about licensees.

Currently, the Commonwealth of Virginia does not register or license dietitians. While § 54.1-2731 of the Code of Virginia establishes certification and education standards for the use of the titles "dietitian" or "nutritionist" as it relates to one's professional advertisement of services, there is currently no established state licensure pathway for dietitians under the Department of Health Professions or the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation. This would mean that Virginia is currently ineligible for participation in the Compact.

The bill text does not require that a state which enacts the Compact language and does not currently have a state licensure pathway establish such pathway. However, Virginia cannot participate in the Compact until such pathway is created. Should a licensure pathway for dietitians be established, the Department of Health Professions would likely need new nongeneral fund appropriation and/or positions to manage applications for the new license type. The anticipated demand for such a license and estimated number of applicants is unknown at this time; accordingly, any associated fiscal impact is indeterminate.

Should Virginia establish a licensure pathway for dietitians and participate in the Compact, the Department of State Police (VSP) would be the state agency responsible for the administration of criminal background checks. VSP does not report a fiscal impact resulting from the establishment of a criminal background check

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requirement as a condition for Compact licensure, especially given that the Compact has not formally taken effect. However, should the Compact take effect and a significant number of dietitians apply for Compact membership in the future, there may be a cost to VSP to administer and perform such background checks. Any such impact is indeterminate at this time.

Other: n/a