

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB610 **Patron:** Anthony
Bill Title: Commonwealth Food Security and Coordination Act established.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Commonwealth Food Security and Coordination Act to coordinate state-level food security responses during federal nutrition benefit interruptions, natural disasters, and other emergencies affecting household food access. Under the bill, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the Department of Emergency Management are directed to work together to coordinate the provisions of the Act.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 328, Item 337

Explanation: The Department of Social Services will require appropriation attributable to Item 328 (Program Management Services), as well as appropriation and one position attributable to Item 337 (Emergency Preparedness).

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that the provisions of this legislation will require new general and nongeneral fund expenditures on the part of the Department of Social Services (DSS) for which the agency is not currently appropriated. It is expected that any impacts to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Emergency Management will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources. See table and fiscal analysis below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
DSS (765)	-	\$95,162	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107
TOTAL	-	\$95,162	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107

Nongeneral Fund Expenditure Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
DSS (765)	-	\$95,162	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107
TOTAL	-	\$95,162	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107	\$70,107

Position Impact:

Agency	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031
DSS (765)	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

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Fiscal Analysis: This legislation requires the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), and the Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to work together to coordinate state-level food security responses during natural disasters, interruptions to federal nutrition benefits, and other emergency situations as may be appropriate.

DSS is assigned as the lead agency for the purposes of coordinating a response and is further assigned responsibilities including (i) establishment of a plan for coordinated emergency food-access operations; (ii) development and maintenance of MOUs with VDACS, VDEM, and nonprofit partners; (iii) identification of areas of need using food access datasets or tools; (iv) activation of emergency food-access operations within 24 to 72 hours upon request or determination of an emergency; (v) promotion of equitable access to emergency food resources; (vi) provision of public guidance to households and localities; (vii) coordination with local departments of social services (LDSS) regarding implementation of emergency food-access efforts; and (viii) submitting an annual report to the Governor and General Assembly. VDACS and VDEM are required to provide technical, logistical, and operational assistance.

DSS reports that the responsibilities assigned in the bill cannot be absorbed by existing staff and that a full-time program coordinator position will be required to support the variety of planning, implementation, reporting, and operating tasks that are outlined above. The cost for this position is estimated at \$110,324 in FY 2027 (\$55,162 general fund (GF)/\$55,162 nongeneral funds (NGF)) and \$140,214 in FY 2028 and subsequent years (\$70,107 GF/\$70,107 NGF). This estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits and a one-time onboarding cost of \$5,163 in the first year. The FY 2027 cost is adjusted for three quarters of the fiscal year due to anticipated hiring timelines.

To ensure consistent implementation of emergency food-access operations and adherence to required activation timelines, DSS also expects that additional resources will be necessary to develop and update training materials and resources for state and local staff, as well as participating nonprofit and community partners. The agency expects to work with a contractor in FY 2027 to develop four training modules that are estimated at two hours in length. Two modules are intended to be tailored for LDSS, while two modules are intended to be tailored for community partners. Development costs are estimated at \$20,000 per module, for a total one-time cost of \$80,000 (\$40,000 GF/\$40,000 NGF).

Both VDACS and VDEM anticipate that any cost or workload impacts associated with the provision of technical, logistical, or operational support will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a