

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB260 **Patron:** Stanley
Bill Title: Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; Senior Isolation Prevention Advisory Task Force established; report.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Senior Isolation Prevention Advisory Task Force for the purpose of advising the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services on strategies for reducing social isolation and loneliness among seniors and promoting volunteer engagement.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes **Items Impacted:** Item 323

Explanation: The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services will require additional general fund appropriation and one position to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 323 (Adult Programs and Services).

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation will require general fund expenditures on the part of the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) for which they are not currently appropriated. See table and fiscal analysis below.

General Fund Expenditure Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
DARS (262)	-	\$170,400	\$170,400	\$170,400	\$170,400	\$170,400
TOTAL	-	\$170,400	\$170,400	\$170,400	\$170,400	\$170,400

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
DARS (262)	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Fiscal Analysis: This bill creates a Senior Isolation Prevention Advisory Task Force (Task Force) at the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to advise DARS leadership on strategies for reducing social isolation and loneliness among seniors and promoting volunteer engagement. The Task Force is required to be composed of three ex officio members and twelve nonlegislative citizen members, who shall include representatives from various stakeholder organizations as required by the bill. The Task Force is further required to develop and disseminate educational resources on social isolation that shall be available at community organizations and online, review and evaluate existing programs and initiatives addressing social isolation, and identify opportunities to reduce social isolation through community engagement, technology, and public assistance programs. The Task Force is required to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly by December 1 of each year and post such report on its website.

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DARS reports that the requirements of this legislation cannot be absorbed by staff currently servicing other advisory groups and commissions, and that one new full-time staff member will be needed to provide administrative and operational support to the Task Force. This staff member would also be responsible for coordinating ongoing evaluation and assessment of programs and strategies as identified or determined by the Task Force. The cost for this position is estimated at \$150,000 general fund (GF) annually and is inclusive of salary, fringe benefits, and nonpersonal services (supplies and materials).

DARS also expects that additional resources may be required to convene meetings for the Task Force. Although the bill does not specify a number of required meetings for the Task Force, for the purposes of this analysis it is assumed that the Task Force will meet quarterly, consistent with the practice of other DARS commissions and advisory groups. There is no provision in the bill to provide compensation and expenses per § 2.2-2813 of the Code of Virginia. If appropriation is provided to nonlegislative citizen members of the Task Force, it is estimated at \$50 per member per meeting for compensation, and \$377 per member per meeting for mileage, lodging, and incidentals. If such estimates are applied to 12 nonlegislative citizen members as outlined in the bill, it would result in a cost of nearly \$5,100 GF per meeting for four meetings (\$20,400 GF total). This cost is reflected in the fiscal impact table above; however, should appropriation not be provided for this purpose, DARS is not obligated to reimburse citizen members for their participation.

Other: n/a