

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB740

Patron: Jones

Bill Title: Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Act; fund and council established, report.

Bill Summary: Establishes the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Fund (the Fund) to provide funding to support clinical research and implementation of FDA Breakthrough Therapies, defined in the bill, for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder, treatment-resistant depression, major depressive disorder, and traumatic brain injury. Under the bill, the Fund shall be used to (i) establish public-private partnerships to jointly fund Phase III clinical trials of FDA Breakthrough Therapies; (ii) conduct investigator-initiated clinical trials; (iii) establish a compassionate use program; (iv) create education and training opportunities for mental health professionals; (v) begin patient access pilot programs; and (vi) conduct implementation studies for best practices, cost-effectiveness, and methods to reduce treatment costs. The bill also establishes the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Advisory Council to advise the Department of Health on administration of grant funding or contracting to carry out the purposes of the Fund. Finally, the bill requires the Board of Pharmacy to amend its regulations to designate, reschedule, or deschedule a controlled substance in accordance with federal law after the expiration of 30 days from the publication in the Federal Register of a final or interim final order or rule.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 280

Explanation: The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) would require additional general fund appropriation to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 280 (State Health Services).

Fiscal Summary: The provisions of this legislation would have a fiscal impact on the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to administer the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Fund and to provide support for the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Advisory Council. VDH would be responsible for the fund, including administering grants and contracts as well as developing related processes such as the issuance of request for proposals and contract administration. As such, VDH would need funding for a new wage position to oversee administration of the Fund and the Council.

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>
VDH (601)	-	\$62,339	\$62,339	\$62,339	\$62,339	\$62,339

Fiscal Analysis: The cost of the wage position to oversee administration of the Fund and the Council is \$52,139, which includes wages, telecommunications, and VITA costs.

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To support activities of the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Advisory Council, VDH estimates it would need \$10,200 in additional support. 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 members of the work group, it is estimated at \$50 per member per meeting for compensation, and \$377 per member per meeting for mileage, lodging, and incidentals. Applied to a potential 6 citizen members, this would result in a cost of nearly \$2,550 per meeting for four meetings (\$10,200 total).

The amount of funding provided to the Breakthrough Therapies for Veteran Suicide Prevention Fund is dependent on the allocation of state resources, gifts, denotations, grants bequests, or other funds attributed to it. It is unknown how much funding would be appropriated for the Fund, as such this cost is indeterminate.

Any costs for the Board of Pharmacy to amend regulations can be handled within existing resources.

Other: None