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

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Bill Number: HB1223 **Patron:** Delaney
Bill Title: Health professionals; mandatory suicide training required.

Bill Summary: Requires health care professionals to complete training in suicide assessment, treatment, and management. The bill requires counselors, licensed substance abuse treatment practitioners, marriage and family therapists, behavioral health technicians, qualified mental health professionals, occupational therapists, psychologists, and social workers to complete such training at least once every six years and requires other health professionals to complete such training once. The bill requires the Commissioner of Health and the Department of Health Professions to develop a model list of training programs in suicide assessment, treatment, and management and update such list at least once every two years.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** n/a

Fiscal Summary: Minimal/absorbable fiscal impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill requires practitioners licensed by the Department of Health Professions (DHP) to complete mandatory suicide assessment, treatment, and management training that is approved by the relevant health regulatory Board. The first subsection of the bill requires specific professions licensed by the Board of Social Work and the Board of Counseling to complete such training at least once every six years; the second subsection requires all other practitioners certified or licensed by a DHP board to complete such training once.

The bill sets out requirements for completion of such training in line with continuing education reporting periods for licensure and license renewal. Additionally, the bill requires DHP to work collaboratively with the Commissioner of the Department of Health (VDH) and other stakeholders to develop a model list of training programs around suicide assessment, treatment, and management and adopt rules establishing minimum standards for such training programs.

This bill does not require that DHP host any new training programs; accordingly, the responsibilities attributable to DHP include one-time and periodic validations (every six years) of training completion for impacted licensees, as well as development of a model list in collaboration with stakeholders. DHP reports that any cost or workload impacts associated with such requirements are expected to be absorbable within existing resources and staffing levels.

It is expected that any impacts to VDH or the Department of Veterans Services that may result from collaborating with DHP to develop a model list of training programs will be minimal and absorbable within existing resources.

Other: n/a