

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1403H1

Patron: Frankiln

Bill Title: Severe maternal morbidity; Maternal Mortality Review Team renamed; duties; data dashboard.

Bill Summary: As amended in the nature of a substitute, the provisions of the bill would require the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to establish the Severe Maternal Morbidity Surveillance and Review Program (SMM Program) for the purpose of identifying, analyzing, and reviewing instances of severe maternal morbidity (SMM). VDH would be required to establish the program; develop a reporting system for hospitals and freestanding birth centers; develop a case definition for severe maternal morbidity; and develop a model protocol for hospitals and freestanding birth centers. Additionally the substitute would require every hospital and freestanding birthing center to participate in the SMM Program and to establish an advisory board to review severe maternal morbidity cases that includes community members; review SMM cases; identify drivers, risk factors, and causes of SMM; engage in quality improvement efforts regarding SMM; determine whether SMM events were preventable; make recommendations to reduce SMM; and report findings to VDH. Finally, the bill requires VDH to annually compile statewide trends in SMM and make recommendations in an annual report, as well as publish data on its website related to SMM. The bill allows the Board to promulgate regulations as necessary to implement the SMM Program.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes

Items Impacted: 280

Explanation: VDH will require additional general fund support and two positions to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 280 (State Health Services).

Fiscal Summary: VDH does not have sufficient resources to support the establishment and ongoing operational costs for the SMM Program. The agency reports that general fund support along with two new full-time positions are needed to implement the bill's provisions.

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)	-	\$313,007	\$313,007	\$313,007	\$313,007	\$313,007

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
VDH (601)	-	2	2	2	2	2

Fiscal Analysis: To meet the provisions of the legislation, VDH would require additional general fund resources, including two positions, to support program administration, develop a reporting system, develop a severe maternal morbidity surveillance case definition aligned with evidence-based practice and reflecting stakeholder subject matter expertise, and develop a model protocol for the development and implementation of severe maternal mortality advisory boards. VDH estimates that personnel costs, including salary and fringe benefits, are as follows:

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- One Nurse Supervisor (\$145,200 general fund annually)
 - This position would manage the SMM Program, develop model protocols for maternal mortality advisory boards, provide support and technical assistance in conducting and reporting case reviews, and draft the annual report.
- One Epidemiologist (\$109,878 general fund annually)
 - This position would provide epidemiological support activities, including developing the reporting platform, analyzing reports, compiling statewide trends of SMM, and assisting the Nurse Supervisor in providing data-related technical assistance to the hospitals.

Additional support for the Director of the Division of Death Prevention is necessary to oversee, direct, and support the work of the SMM Program. The director is currently funded through grants, and approximately 23 percent of the Director's salary would need to be cost-allocated for anticipated time spent on required activities, as grant funds cannot be used for this effort. As such, VDH reports that \$45,292 general fund would be needed to support this position.

Based on these assumptions, total personal services costs (salaries and benefits) would be \$300,370 general fund. In addition to these costs, VDH reports that \$12,637 general fund would be needed for software licenses, required travel, data collection, telecommunications, and office supplies.

Other: None