

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

victim child's parent or other caretaker, or an intimate partner of such parent or caretaker pursuant to § 63.2-100 of the Code of Virginia. DSS reports that this legislation would broaden current obligations for mandated reporters by requiring them to report suspected child abuse or neglect when such suspicions involve offenses related to indecent liberties and obscenity pursuant to the bill, even if the suspected perpetrator is not a parent, caretaker, or intimate partner of such parent or caretaker. This would likely result in additional reports or complaints of child abuse or neglect being submitted to LDSS that may not be able to be accepted as valid pursuant to § 63.2-1508. Invalid reports still require time and attention on the part of LDSS staff during the initial intake process (approximately three hours).

Between January and June 2025, LDSS screened out 1,275 reports that involved non-caretaker sexual abuse, representing approximately 4 percent of all screened-out reports during that period. Based on this trend and the proposed expansion of mandatory reporting responsibilities to include suspicions of indecent liberties and obscenity offenses against children, this legislation could reasonably result in a comparable increase—approximately 4 percent—in invalid reports involving non-caretaker offenses. In FY 2025, DSS identified 45,646 reports of child abuse and neglect that were deemed invalid. As stated above, this legislation is expected to increase the number of invalid reports by approximately four percent of this total, or 1,826 reports. Given that each invalid report requires three hours of staff time on average, this would theoretically result in a workload increase of 5,478 hours across all LDSS.

DSS maintains that current LDSS staff are at capacity and cannot absorb the workload created by this legislation. Based on the standard LDSS workload capacity rate of one full-time staff for every 1,500 work hours, DSS estimates that 3.65 additional Family Services Specialist positions would be needed. This would result in an estimated general fund cost of \$258,516 in FY 2027 and \$323,165 in FY 2028 and thereafter. This estimate includes salaries, fringe benefits, and nonpersonal services costs (supplies and materials); the FY 2027 cost estimate is adjusted for three quarters of the fiscal year to account for hiring delays. Based on the current state and local cost share of LDSS child protective services expenses, it is assumed that this legislation will require a local fund match estimated at 15.5 percent of the total position costs beginning in FY 2027.

Other: n/a