

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1353E

Patron: Cohen

Bill Title: Commissioner of Health; feasibility of a statewide maternal health safety initiative; work group; reports.

Bill Summary: Directs the Commissioner of Health to convene a work group of relevant stakeholders, described in the bill, to evaluate the feasibility of a statewide maternal health safety initiative. The bill directs the Commissioner to submit an interim report of the work group by November 1, 2026, and a final report with the work group's recommendations no later than July 1, 2027, to the House Committee on Health and Human Services, the Senate Committee on Education and Health, and the Commission on Women's Health.

As amended, the bill adds the Medical Society of Virginia to the workgroup.

Budget Amendment Necessary: See below

Items Impacted: 280

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

Fiscal Summary: It is assumed that minimal adherence to the provisions of this bill can be achieved within existing agency resources. However, should additional expertise or participant compensation be expected then general fund appropriation will be required. See Fiscal Analysis below.

Fiscal Analysis: The provisions of this legislation require VDH to convene a work group to evaluate the feasibility of a statewide maternal health safety initiative. It is expected that VDH would be able to absorb the costs of convening the required work group and providing the reports as required by the bill. It is assumed that the evaluation and deliverables associated with the initiative would be limited to the expertise and time available from work group representatives. Without additional resources, details associated with some of the initiative's required aspects (i.e. cost estimates, framework, and implementation plan) may be limited. VDH estimates the one-time cost of hiring outside expertise to assist with this project is \$65,942 general fund.

VDH assumes that the work group would meet four times throughout the year. It is unknown how many members the work group would comprise or how many members would be non-local. VDH assumes the work group would consist of 15 members. 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 citizen 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 15 citizen members, this would result in a cost of nearly \$6,405 per meeting for four meetings (\$25,620 total). Should appropriation not be provided for this purpose, VDH is not obligated to reimburse members for their participation.

Other: None