

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB674H1

**Patron:** Maldonado

**Bill Title:** Department of Health; collection and annual publication of food insecurity information.

**Bill Summary:** The provisions of the bill, as amended in the nature of a substitute, directs the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), as part of its participation in the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, to collect information on food insecurity using a validated tool and publish such information on its website.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** -

**Explanation:** VDH has indicated that the provisions of this bill can be implemented with minimal fiscal impact.

**Fiscal Summary:** The provisions of the bill would require VDH to collect food insecurity data using a validated tool and publish the information annually. The agency reports that the minimal system changes needed for implementation can be absorbed.

**Fiscal Analysis:** The bill requires VDH to use a validated food insecurity screening tool to collect food insecurity data. VDH indicates that it would use the Hunger Vital Sign, a validated two-question instrument developed by Children's Health Watch. The Hunger Vital Sign has demonstrated strong comparability to the USDA Household Food Security Survey Module. Although there is no fee or licensing cost associated with the tool, VDH would need to modify its survey module to incorporate the two questions into the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). VDH contracts with a specialized vendor to administer the BRFSS. Adding two state-specific questions would increase contractor costs and extend interview length. VDH applies a standardized cost of \$6,000 per optional state-added question. Accordingly, the addition of two questions would result in an estimated annual contractor cost of \$12,000.

**Other:** None