

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

Fiscal Analysis: According to DFP, the provisions of the substitute bill are anticipated to increase the workload of the agency's grants department. Currently, DFP employs two grants administrators responsible for managing five existing annual grants and one one-time grant. DFP anticipates that the two existing grants administrators would not be able to manage the additional workload of the proposed cancer screening grant in the substitute bill. According to DFP, the anticipated increase in workload resulting from the substitute bill is primarily due to the need to establish a new health-related grant program, of which the agency does not have experience establishing or administering.

A similar bill introduced in the 2024 General Assembly Session (Chapter 174, 2024) required the agency to convene a workgroup to identify and analyze options to help ensure that local government employees who respond to emergencies that expose them to toxic materials have appropriate preemptive and ongoing health care. The findings of the workgroup recommend one additional full-time position to become a subject matter expert on cancer screenings to develop unique grant distribution guidelines that incorporate relevant information such as (i) what events qualify for localities to screen first responders and (ii) how the screening data can be used to prioritize funding for localities with the highest risks of cancer exposure events. Although HB393 is not identical to Chapter 174 (2024), the recommendation by the workgroup pertains to similar requirements in HB393. According to DFP, the position would have a base salary of \$75,000 plus fringe benefits and equipment costs for an estimated annual impact of \$121,480. The first year (FY2027) fiscal impact estimate for salary and fringe costs of the one position are prorated for 10 months to allow for recruitment and onboarding.

In addition to funding a position to address the anticipated workload of the bill, additional funding is required to be distributed to localities to fund cancer screenings. According to DFP, there are approximately 11,000 career firefighters in the Commonwealth that would be eligible for cancer screenings according to the provisions of the substitute bill. Using data provided by the Virginia Professional Fire Fighters (VFFF) organization, DFP estimates that an ultrasound cancer screening test costs approximately \$350 per screening. Therefore, the maximum estimated funding need to provide all 11,000 career firefighters a cancer screening less than or equal to \$350, as per the provisions of the substitute bill, is \$3,850,000. However, the substitute bill does not establish a source of funding for the proposed grant program and therefore is subject to the appropriation of the General Assembly and the Governor.

Other: DFP notes that if two positions are provided to address the fiscal implications of SB80, those positions would be able to absorb the anticipated workload increase resulting from this substitute bill, thus removing the need for the one position referenced in this fiscal impact statement.