

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

Position Impact:

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
DHP (223)	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
TOTAL	-	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

Fiscal Analysis: As substituted, this bill will allow a dental assistant I (DAI) or dental assistant II (DAII) to obtain certification to provide additional dental treatments as outlined in the bill. Pursuant to § 54.1-2400 of the Code of Virginia, the Department of Health Professions (DHP) believes that the Board of Dentistry, in its capacity as a health regulatory board, will be responsible for establishing the certification process for such expanded treatment capacities and administering such certification to qualifying applicants.

Under current regulations, only DAIIs are required to register with the Board of Dentistry (the Board). This legislation would allow DAIs, who are currently unregulated by the Board, to engage with the Board when applying for the certification outlined in the substitute bill. DHP reports that 58 DAIIs are currently registered with the Board; however, 2024 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that there may be as many as 11,040 dental assistants (both DAIs and DAIIs) in Virginia. This significantly expands the applicant pool for this certification beyond providers currently known to the Board.

In order to manage an increase in certification applications that exceed the currently registered pool of DAIIs, DHP estimates that they will require one new nongeneral fund position at pay band 3, for a total of \$100,000. This individual will be a licensing specialist responsible for handling all applications for the new practice certification. The cost estimate for this position is inclusive of salary, fringe benefits, and non-personnel costs related to operation, training, supplies, and travel. Given that operations of DHP’s health regulatory boards are wholly sustained by practitioner fee revenue, the increase in nongeneral fund appropriation required to sustain this position may need to be generated through a fee increase for the Board of Dentistry.

It is expected that any other costs associated with the provisions of this regulation, including the validation of certifications from supervising dentists upon request and the promulgation of regulations, are minimal and can be absorbed within existing resources.

This fiscal impact analysis assumes that the Board of Dentistry, in its capacity as a health regulatory board, will be responsible for establishing the application process for the new certification type and bestowing such certification to all eligible applicants. However, the provisions of this legislation also appear to allow for such certification to be granted by licensed dentists or certain licensed dental hygienists, through certain federal programs or military service, or through an existing dental assistant education program. The extent to which these provisions may conflict with statutory responsibilities of health regulatory boards is unclear. If the bill text can be understood to delegate certification authority to such persons and/or groups, then it is possible that some of the estimated workload for the Board of Dentistry may be reduced.

Other: SB178 S1 may be a companion to HB970 H1.