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

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Bill Number: SB635 S1 **Patron:** McDougle
Bill Title: Emergency Services and Disaster Law; declaration of a state of preparedness.

Bill Summary: The substitute bill directs the Department of Emergency Management to assess the feasibility and impact of developing a program to prioritize the prevention and mitigation of damage, loss, hardship, or suffering due to the anticipated impacts of an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of preparedness, or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency. In conducting the assessment, the Department shall evaluate and develop recommendations for (i) criteria for determining whether an emergency situation warrants a response from the Department when such emergency does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency; (ii) procedures for the procurement, maintenance, and replenishment of materials, equipment, and supplies, in such quantities and at such locations as the Department may deem necessary to ensure readiness and to preserve the lives, property, and economic well-being of the people of the Commonwealth prior to and during an imminent emergency necessitating a gubernatorial declaration of a state of preparedness or an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency; (iii) the feasibility of seeking reimbursement from any person causing or contributing to an emergency or disaster for expenses incurred by the Department for the protection, relief, and recovery from loss or damage caused by such person; and (iv) cost estimates, including personnel, administrative, and equipment expenses that will be incurred by the Department, or by any other state agency or political subdivision or other entity, in and for responding to an emergency that does not warrant a gubernatorial declaration of a state of emergency.

The substitute bill provides that the Department shall submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the Chairs of the Senate Committees on Finance and Appropriations and General Laws and Technology and the House Committee on Appropriations no later than November 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No **Items Impacted:** N/A
Explanation: N/A

Fiscal Summary: The proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on state agencies.

Fiscal Analysis: According to the Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), the proposed legislation is not expected to have a material fiscal impact on agency operations. The assessment outlined in the substitute bill can be conducted with existing resources.

Other: None