

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB523H1

Patron: Willett

Bill Title: Department of Veterans Services; Department of Health Professions; military medical personnel; program.

Bill Summary: The substitute bill expands the definition of “military medical personnel” for the purposes of the program established by the Department of Veterans Services, in collaboration with the Department of Health Professions, that allows such military medical personnel to practice and perform certain delegated acts that constitute the practice of medicine or nursing to include other enlisted service members who successfully completed appropriate technical training and any required certifications and who were discharged or released from such service under conditions other than dishonorable. Under current law, “military medical personnel” means an individual who has recently served as a medic in the United States Army, medical technician in the United States Air Force, medical personnel in the United States Space Force, or corpsman in the United States Navy or the United States Coast Guard. The bill also allows such military medical personnel participating in the program to be supervised by any licensed practitioner and such supervision shall be limited to the licensed practitioner’s existing scope of practice. Current law allows such personnel to be supervised by a physician or podiatrist. The second enactment clause requires the Department of Veterans Services and the Department of Health Professions to convene a stakeholder work group to provide guidance on the implementation and further development of the Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program and report its findings to the Chairs of the House Committee on Health and Human Services and the Senate Committee on Education and Health by November 1, 2026.

Budget Amendment Necessary: Indeterminate

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: Not applicable

Fiscal Summary: There is an indeterminate impact as a result of this proposal.

Fiscal Analysis: As substituted, this bill directs the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and the Department of Health Professions (DHP) to convene a work group to provide guidance on the implementation and further development of the Military Medics and Corpsmen (MMAC) program. The work group is required to be comprised of persons representing at least eleven different stakeholder groups, including state agencies and authorities, health care systems, and professional associations, as well as any other stakeholders deemed appropriate by DVS and DHP. The workgroup is required to study and make recommendations on certain topics related to the MMAC program as defined in the bill and report such findings to the General Assembly by November 1, 2026.

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While the bill directs both agencies to convene the workgroup, it is unknown if one of the agencies may assume primary responsibility related to this workgroup.

DVS reports that the requirements of the bill can be met using the agency's current fiscal and staff resources.

DHP reports that if they assume the primary responsibilities related to work group staffing and coordination they may incur some nongeneral fund costs, approximately \$16,800, given the reporting deadline of November 1, 2026. DHP reports that the agency has sufficient appropriation authority to cover the expected costs of this workgroup, but that DHP may need to impose a one-time fee assessment on licensees defined in the bill as "licensed practitioners" (that is, licensees of the Board of Medicine, the Board of Nursing, and the Board of Counseling) to generate additional nongeneral fund revenue and offset any impacts to the agency's operating budget.

The Virginia Department of Health, the Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, and the Virginia Community College System indicate that any workgroup impacts would be absorbable.

Other: None.