

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2026 General Assembly Session | 02/23/26

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

SB87S1: Local government sporting events and sporting facilities; automated external defibrillators. (Patron: Stanley)

Bill Summary: Requires localities to ensure that operational automated external defibrillators are available at local government sporting events and sporting facilities. The bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2028.

Local Fiscal Impact: Net Additional Expenditure: x Net Reduction of Revenues:

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 4 Cities, 6 Counties, 2 Towns, 0 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact of \$6,435 to \$250,000 over the biennium.

Most localities identified the bill's fiscal impact as minimal, consisting primarily of the one-time purchase of automated external defibrillators. The range for an automated external defibrillator (AED) is \$ 1,400- \$ 2,500. As the substitute removes the change in the retrieval distance requirement, localities are projected to purchase fewer defibrillators overall. The recurring cost is associated with the annual maintenance and operations of AED. Although the bill has a delayed effective date of July 1, 2028, localities project purchasing the AEDs in FY27 and FY28 to be compliant at the effective date.

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Albemarle County	<p>Section 2 of the bill provides that its provisions become effective July 1, 2028. As this effective date falls in FY2029, no expenditure impacts are anticipated during the FY2027 or FY2028 budget cycles.</p> <p>Beginning in FY2029, the County may incur one-time capital costs estimated at approximately \$60,000 to purchase and install automated external defibrillators (AEDs) across all required facilities, exclusive of future inflation adjustments. Ongoing operating costs for required inspection, testing, and maintenance are estimated at approximately \$20,000-30,000 annually.</p>
City of Alexandria	<p>The bill as proposed would require the purchase of 96 defibrillators at indoor and outdoor sites throughout the City. Estimated cost of \$1,654 per unit for a total purchase price of \$158,000. An additional cost of \$18,000 per year would be required for annual maintenance to ensure units remain tested and operational. Cost per unit factors indoor/outdoor cabinets, replacement parts for pediatric/adult pads, lithium batteries, and battery packs. The bill proposes delayed implementation until 2028.</p>
City of Emporia	<p>The City of Emporia is a small locality with limited recreational facilities and staffing resources. The estimate is based on a preliminary review of City-owned parks, athletic fields, and recreational spaces that would be subject to the proposed requirements. The City assumes that Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) will need to be purchased and installed at qualifying facilities and made available during City-sponsored sporting events to meet the minimum standards outlined in the legislation.</p> <p>Cost assumptions are based on an estimated purchase price of \$1,500 to \$2,500 per AED unit, in addition to ongoing costs for maintenance, replacement batteries and pads, required signage, and registration with emergency medical services. The total cost will depend on the number and size of qualifying facilities and events. As a small locality with a limited tax base, even modest equipment and compliance costs must be carefully planned and incorporated into future operating or capital budgets.</p> <p>The estimate also considers the administrative impact on existing staff, who would be responsible for developing a compliance plan, coordinating placement, maintaining equipment, and ensuring ongoing compliance. Because the effective date is July 1, 2028, the City anticipates phasing in purchases over multiple fiscal years to manage the financial impact.</p>

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Richmond	<p>Despite the new language only requiring AEDs to be present while a sporting event is occurring, our fiscal impact statement for FYs past 2028 remains the same as introduced because A) in order to be most effective, the AEDs must be installed in one place where participants know where to access them, and B) it would constitute half of a full time employee's workload to track AEDs and ensure compliance should portable AEDs be used.</p> <p>While this bill would not create a fiscal impact in FY27 and FY28, starting in FY29, it would impact both Richmond Public Schools and Richmond Parks and Rec. As sporting events sponsored or organized by the City of Richmond are sometimes held in RPS school-board owned facilities, the number of AEDs needed for RPS facilities and events to be in compliance would be approximately 42 at the price of \$2,500 for a one-time total of \$105,000. Maintenance replacement of AED equipment would cost RPS \$18,564 in FY33 and every five years thereafter, assuming none were used or needed replacement early. For the department of Parks and Recreation to upgrade the number of AEDs they would need to be in compliance, they would need to purchase roughly 42 more AEDs at the same rate of \$105,000, and would pay approximately \$12,600 much more per year for maintenance, based on doubling the cost of their current maintenance contract in proportion with doubling the number of AEDs.</p>
City of Virginia Beach	The City of Virginia Beach would need to purchase 27 new AEDs to meet the requirements of this bill. The estimated cost today of a single AED is \$2,800.
Roanoke County	The amendment should not impact the fiscal impact we already shared, so the above information should generally match what was submitted in January in regard to the proposed legislation. Our initial request would be \$50,000 with an additional \$15,000 requested annually to cover staff recertification, biannual battery and electrode pad replacement, as well as an overall replacement program. We would then need to add \$150,000 to our site supervisor budget to cover all activities to be able to issue the AEDs.
Hanover County	The County would need to install additional AED's at parks, community centers and schools. The estimate in FY28 is for the equipment and installation. We would also expect ongoing costs every three years for replacement pads and batteries beginning in FY30.
Prince George County	<p>We anticipate needing to purchase 3 additional AED machines prior to 7/1/2028 (in spring of 2028). We have quantified the purchase at \$2,145.00 x 3 machines for a total of \$6,435.00</p> <p>This does not include battery replacement (ongoing every 2-5 years), or electrode pads replacements (every 2-4 years).</p>
Rappahannock County	\$5,000 for two AEDs with installation and \$1,000 per year to increase part time staffing hours for individual to actively track the requirement.
Rockingham County	We have AEDs at all facilities, I would expect only about five additional AEDs would need to be purchased for outdoor events. Estimated \$2k/AED and \$200/replacement pads etc. per AED annually.
Town of Chincoteague	

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
York County	Estimated based on acreage of the parks only and assumes we have County sponsored sporting events at these locations. One of our parks is 545 acres, and does not have sporting events there, therefore it was not included in the calculation. We already have AED's at most of the locations, this would increase the numbers only. In addition to the capital costs, maintenance costs after the first year, of \$5,000 would be needed each year, with replacements in 10 years.