

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

---

**PUBLISHED: 2/26/2026 10:33 AM**

**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB608ER

**Patron:** Pillion

**Bill Title:** Peer recovery specialists; VDH & DOC to develop guidelines for hiring.

**Bill Summary:** Directs the Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Department of Corrections to develop agency guidelines for hiring peer recovery specialists with previous criminal convictions for compensated employment. Such guidelines shall include provisions clarifying the requirements for employment in specific programs and positions operated by the Departments of Health and Corrections and include, at a minimum, language providing for employment of such individuals that is no more restrictive than the provisions of § 37.2-314 of the Code of Virginia granting exceptions to the list of barrier crimes for individuals hired for compensated employment at an adult mental health or adult substance abuse treatment program.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** No

**Items Impacted:** None

**Fiscal Summary:** Minimal fiscal impact.

**Fiscal Analysis:** Any increase in workload to develop guidelines can be handled within existing resources.

**Other:** None.