

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

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB575 ER

Patron: Glass

Bill Title: Respiratory Care Interstate Compact; authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to Compact.

Bill Summary: Authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact. The Compact allows respiratory therapists who have or are eligible for an active, unencumbered license in the Compact member state where they reside to apply for a multistate license. The Compact has been passed in five states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: n/a

Fiscal Summary: Minimal/absorbable fiscal impact.

Fiscal Analysis: This bill authorizes Virginia to become a member of the Respiratory Care Interstate Compact. Currently, the Board of Medicine is responsible for licensing respiratory therapists in the Commonwealth. The Compact preserves the regulatory authority of the Board of Medicine as it relates to the practice of respiratory therapy and sets forth additional responsibilities for member states including the following:

- Participating in the Compact data system
- Communicating with member states and Compact leadership
- Notifying Compact leadership of disciplinary or investigative action taken against Compact licensees
- Undertaking joint investigations of Compact licensees with other member states
- Implementing criminal background check requirements for Compact licensees within an established timeframe
- Participating in the operations and meetings of the Compact Commission

The Department of Health Professions anticipates that any workload or cost increases resulting from Compact membership will be minimal and can be absorbed by the Board of Medicine. The Department of State Police (VSP) is the state agency responsible for the administration of criminal background checks; VSP does not report a fiscal impact resulting from the establishment of a criminal background check requirement as a condition for Compact licensure, especially given that the Compact has not formally taken effect. However, should the Compact take effect and a significant number of respiratory therapists apply for Compact membership in the future, there may be a cost to VSP to administer and perform such background checks.

Other: n/a