

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

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** HB794ER

**Patron:** Reaser

**Bill Title:** Opioid overdose and opioid overdose deaths; Department of Health to reduce rates, report.

**Bill Summary:** The bill provides that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) shall develop a strategic plan for opioid response to reduce rates of drug overdose and drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth. In developing such strategic plan, VDH shall (i) conduct an evaluation and needs assessment of existing opioid overdose prevention, intervention, and treatment efforts in the Commonwealth and (ii) collaborate with the Secretaries of Education, Health and Human Services, and Public Safety and Homeland Security, representatives of state agencies, and other appropriate stakeholders. VDH shall provide a report on the status of the strategic plan and implementation thereof to the Governor and the Chairs of the House Committees on Appropriations and Health and Human Services, the Senate Committees on Education and Health and Finance and Appropriations, and the Joint Commission on Health Care by November 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes

**Items Impacted:** 278

**Explanation:** The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will require additional general fund appropriation to comply with the provisions of this legislation, attributable to Item 278 (Communicable Disease Prevention and Control).

**Fiscal Summary:** The provisions of this legislation would have a fiscal impact on VDH. The bill would require VDH to develop and maintain a strategic plan and report on the status of implementation of the strategic plan to reduce rates of opioid overdose, drug overdose, and drug overdose deaths in the Commonwealth. VDH indicates that the agency does not have sufficient resources to absorb this increase in workload.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
VDH (601)	-	\$105,115	\$105,115	\$105,115	\$105,115	\$105,115

**Position Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
VDH (601)	-	1	1	1	1	1

**Fiscal Analysis:** VDH indicates that there is no capacity in the agency to absorb the additional duties created by this bill. The agency indicates that one position would be needed to develop a strategic plan, monitor the implementation and outcomes of efforts to reduce rates of opioid overdose, drug overdose, and drug overdose deaths, collaborate with representatives of state agencies and other stakeholders, and draft the

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annual report. The cost for this position is estimated to be \$105,115, which includes salary, fringe benefits, and necessary nonpersonal services.

**Other:** The Senate budget (280#5s) fully funded the anticipated cost of this legislation. The House budget (278#2h) only included first year funding.