

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2024 General Assembly Session | 1/15/24

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.

HB 9: Animal control officers; additional training (Baxter Ennis)

Bill Summary: Increases the number of hours of required additional training in animal control and protection from 15 to 24 every three years for all animal control officers and deputy animal control officers employed by a locality.

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

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 8 Cities, 11 Counties, 5 Towns, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$8,000 over the biennium, with most indicating no or minimal fiscal impact.

Localities identified the bill's fiscal impact as the proportional increase in operating costs associated with the 60% increase in training hours. Travel costs were variable, and often not included because training is done locally.

Responsive towns indicated that animal control is provided by the County.

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Nonrecurring Expense - Operating		Nonrecurring Expense - Capital		Nonrecurring Expense - Other		Total Increase in Expenses (Biennium Total)
	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	FY25	FY26	
City of Alexandria							0
City of Danville							0
City of Harrisonburg							0
City of Norfolk							0
City of Richmond							0
City of Winchester							0
Lynchburg							5400
Virginia Beach							0
Bedford							5550
Charlotte County							1000
Chesterfield County							8000
Fauquier							0
Henrico County							0
Mecklenburg County							2686
Montgomery County							8000
Prince George County							1400
Rappahannock County							0
Rockingham County							0
Wise County							1000
Northern Neck PDC							0
Town of Blacksburg							0
Town of Chincoteague							0
Town of Christiansburg							0
Town of Marion							0
Town of Warsaw							0

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Alexandria	This bill has limited anticipated fiscal impact on expenditures or revenues.
City of Danville	An additional 9 hours of training once every three years will have no financial impact, as this will be conducted in lieu of scheduled work hours.
City of Harrisonburg	This bill will have no fiscal impact on the City.
City of Norfolk	The fiscal impact of this bill is negligible in terms of additional costs for more training hours, the city strives to appropriate a healthy training budget for our departments. That being said, there could be additional costs to the city if the increase in training hours is also tied to increase certifications or specific training that may require traveling.
City of Richmond	The City of Richmond Department of Animal Care and Control anticipates enough free training opportunities that this increased requirement will not cause any increased expenditures.
City of Winchester	There would be no financial impact. Our regional academy could accommodate the increase in training from its budget.
Lynchburg	Assuming training is \$150 per hour for 4 officers divided over the biennium No travel cost included assuming the training is available on-line or at the local criminal justice academy. No overtime is included for another officer to be on the job while others are in training.
Virginia Beach	We think this will have a minimal impact on our Police Department's Operating budget.
Bedford	Estimate provides for an increase in cost for the additional training hours required. AC Officers are generally able to complete training in the course of normal working hours so OT costs are anticipated. Training hours can be spread out through the 3-year period or all obtained within a single year. For purposes of this estimate, I assumed an even numbers of hours completed per year and factored in the hours already completed for each officers current and future 3-year cycle. Also, I assumed an average of \$150 per training hour. This estimate came from the annual budgeted cost of training per officer per year divided by the assumed number of hours of training completed per officer per year.
Charlotte County	With only one animal control officer, the additional training will require more time away and the requirement of a fill in person.
Chesterfield County	Using the five-year average for education and training for animal services (\$6,690) and multiplying it by the 60% increase in hours. The total annual increase would be \$4,014. This assumes that the cost per hour of training is constant and does not factor in the loss of man hours which would be negligible..
Fauquier	The addition of 9 hours to animal control training every three years is not substantial to our organization.
Henrico County	Henrico already meets proposed training requirement.

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Mecklenburg County	Mecklenburg currently has 1 full-time Animal Control officer as well as 4 part-time positions. Based on actual and anticipated spending on training over the current and last two year periods, the average hourly cost of further education, spread over a three year cycle is nearly \$90 per officer per year (cost / 5 officers / 5 hours per year). At 8 hours per year (24 hours over three years), the incremental cost of \$90 per officer would be \$1,343.
Montgomery County	The operating cost estimate is based on the additional time needed away from the office in a hotel/classroom setting, which would include hotel accommodations, meals, and the cost of an additional day of training.
Prince George County	The 60% increase in hours of training would result in a total impact of roughly \$2,100, divided by 3 years, annual impact is \$700.
Rappahannock County	
Rockingham County	Very minimal increase in training costs would be expected.
Wise County	
Northern Neck PDC	Our Planning District Commission does not have animal control staff.
Town of Blacksburg	This bill does not apply to the Town of Blacksburg.
Town of Chincoteague	
Town of Christiansburg	The Town of Christiansburg relies on Montgomery County for Animal Control. This will result in a direct net increase in Montgomery County's expenditures, but not the Town's.
Town of Marion	Town of Marion does not provide animal control. It is a county function
Town of Warsaw	