

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1479

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Price

3. **Committee:** Health and Human Services

4. **Title:** Health professions; universal licensure; requirements.

5. **Summary:** Requires health regulatory boards within the Department of Health Professions to recognize licenses or certifications issued by other United States jurisdictions, as defined in the bill, as fulfillment for licensure or certification in the Commonwealth if certain conditions are met. The bill also requires such health regulatory boards to recognize work experience as fulfillment for licensure or certification in the Commonwealth if certain conditions are met. The bill does not apply to licensure for physicians or dentists.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The provisions of this legislation would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the Department of Health Professions and its health regulatory boards (the Boards) to recognize licenses or certifications issued by other United States jurisdictions.

The bill provides that the Boards shall, upon application by an individual licensed or certified in a United States jurisdiction, recognize licenses or certifications issued by such state as fulfillment for licensure or certification in the Commonwealth if the certain conditions are met. The Boards may require evidence of active practice in the licensed or certified profession of up to three years prior to application. The Boards shall, upon application by an individual, recognize work experience in another state as fulfillment of qualifications for licensure or certification in the Commonwealth if certain conditions are met. Lastly, the Boards may require an individual seeking a professional or occupational licensure or certification to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant state laws and administrative rules that regulate such profession or occupation if such an examination is required of other applicants for the same license or certification.

It is unknown how many individuals in other United States jurisdictions would seek licensure recognition in Virginia. However, it is assumed that this would increase the workload across all health regulatory boards, which cannot be absorbed within existing resources.

The boards are currently at operating capacity and in need of additional licensing staff to handle the existing licensing volume. This bill would create an additional workload for these boards to research and compare each U.S. jurisdiction for applicability under the legislation and review licensing requirements for recognition as set by the bill. The agency estimates it would need five additional staff at \$97,476 each, \$487,380 total, which would be supported by application fees.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Department of Health Professions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB682, introduced by Senator Sutterlein, is a companion bill.