

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB 2661

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Putney, Lacy E.

3. Committee Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title Pilot Project for Computerization of Local Septic System Data

- 5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill requires the Commissioner of Health to implement, as part of a statewide environmental health database effort, a pilot project for the counties of Bedford, Franklin and Pittsylvania to computerize the data on septic systems. The goal of the project would be to produce data capable of being merged with existing local real estate records, particularly for the areas surrounding Smith Mountain Lake. The pilot project must establish a database for the storage and retrieval of information on local septic systems based on installation permits. Information resulting from septic tank pump-outs and other maintenance must also be included in this database. All the information in the database must be capable of being merged with the local real estate records. The Commissioner is required to implement the pilot project solely with state funds and must exempt the relevant counties from the cost-sharing requirements of the state/local cooperative budget formula.

6. Fiscal impact estimates are tentative

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2001-02	\$500,000*	-	GF
2002-03	\$500,000*	-	GF

**See the fiscal implications section for important clarification of the expenditures.*

7. Budget amendment necessary: Yes

- 8. Fiscal implications:** The Virginia Department of Health continues to identify the establishment of a statewide environmental health database as a high priority. Research has determined that software currently available on the market will be a more cost-effective approach than developing new software. The current estimate for leasing such software, including sufficient site licensing to facilitate use by all local health departments, is \$400,000 annually. A portion of this cost can be appropriately charged to the Onsite Sewage Indemnification Fund, but an estimated \$350,000 in additional funding must be identified. This is included as part of this fiscal impact because the legislation states that this pilot project should be done in conjunction with a statewide effort and the agency has not received any general fund for this purpose. The remaining \$150,000 included in this statement represents a tentative estimate of the costs associated with addressing the specific data concerns in the three localities, including the legislation's stated goal that the pilot project produce data capable of being merged with existing real estate records and facilitate retrieval of appropriate data from the agency's

environmental health database to local systems. The use of contractual staff is assumed to identify the extent to which such integration is feasible, and develop the appropriate systems. This cost can only be tentatively estimated until the market software and specific local real estate systems can be evaluated.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:

Virginia Department of Health

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

10. Other comments: While the legislation does not specify any efforts to automate historical data relative to this pilot project, it should be noted that if the localities desired such data, extensive research would be necessary. The paper septic system permits and other records have been filed in several different ways over the years, and extensive field and file research will be necessary to establish the required set of data by septic location.

SB 1250 is a companion bill.

Date: 1/24/01

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources

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