

Department of Planning and Budget

2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB146

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

2. Patron Purkey, Harry R.

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Reporting dangerous microbes and pathogens

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill would require laboratories in the Commonwealth to report their inventories and changes of inventories of dangerous microbes and pathogens to the Virginia Department of Health. The laboratories must also immediately report inventory that cannot be accounted for within 24 hours. The Board of Health shall determine the list of dangerous microbes and pathogens to be reported and the manner of such reporting. The bill was amended to exclude the laboratory reports from the Freedom of Information Act and establish penalties (per §32.1-27) for the unauthorized disclosure.

6. Fiscal impact estimates are final: (See item 8)

Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2002-03	\$45,633	1.00	NGF*
2003-04	\$46,100	1.00	NGF*

*It is uncertain at this time to what extent the federal government will provide ongoing funding for staff to meet new domestic terrorism related duties in the Virginia Department of Health and other state public health agencies. The reporting requirements proposed by this legislation would most likely be incorporated into a single position's duties along with other new bioterrorism related responsibilities.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No. (See item 8)

8. Fiscal implications: This legislation would not have a significant adverse impact on agency operations if no funding (i.e. federal or general fund dollars) were available. However, to fully implement the bill's intent, the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) would require some additional resources (funding and a classified position.) The use of a contractor or temporary employee is not a viable option given the complexity and sensitivity of the data that would be maintained. The personal service costs for a statistical analyst with database experience is estimated at \$32,000 plus fringe benefit costs for a total cost of \$38,133 in FY 2003 (assuming 22 pay periods) and \$41,600 in FY 2004. Annual support costs of \$4,500 would also be required each year (\$3,000 per year for office supplies and telecommunications; \$1,000 for travel and other costs specific to assuring laboratory compliance; \$500 for overhead charges such as space rental, state liability insurance and database software licensing). A one-time expense of \$3,000 would be needed in the first year only for the purchase of necessary office and computer equipment.

Although likely, it is uncertain at this time to what extent the federal government will provide ongoing funding for staff to meet new domestic terrorism related duties in the Virginia Department of Health and the state public health agencies. The reporting requirements proposed by this legislation would most likely be incorporated into a single position's duties along with other new bioterrorism related responsibilities. Again, if no additional non-general fund (federal) support were available, the agency would not be able to completely implement this legislation without general fund dollars.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:
Virginia Department of Health

10. Technical amendment necessary: No

11. Other comments: None

Date: 2/25/02/kwm

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cc:Secretary of Health and Human Resources