

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact
2002 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB 517 **Patron:** Del. Devolites **Date:** January 21, 2002

In accordance with the provisions of §§ 30–19.03 through 30–19.03:1.1 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of the above-referenced bill:

I. Bill Summary

HB 517 adds an eye examination conducted by an optometrist or ophthalmologist to the preschool health enrollment requirements for kindergarten or elementary school. Local health departments are required to offer such examinations at no charge for indigent children. Currently, only a physical examination is required for enrollment in kindergarten or elementary school, and local health departments must conduct the physical examination at no cost for indigent children. This bill is similar to HB 170 - Hargrove.

II. Fiscal Impact Analysis

According to the Virginia Department of Health, the provision of preschool physical examinations to indigent children by local health departments is one component of the required services that qualify for cost sharing under the State-local cooperative program. At the present time, if eye problems are discovered as part of the preschool physical examination, then the local health department refers the child to a specialist for further testing.

While the Commission on Local Government received only a limited number of fiscal impact estimates from local governments, State officials estimate that the local share for the cost of adding preschool eye exams for indigent children could average between \$120,000 and \$200,000 for all counties and cities. For example, both Rappahannock and Bath Counties estimated that they each would incur increased annual operating costs in the range of \$5,000 or less.

III. Conclusion

HB 517 is expected to have a minimal fiscal impact for most local governments in the Commonwealth.