

## Department of Planning and Budget 2006 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** SB 635

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

**2. Patron**        Howell, Janet D.

**3. Committee** Finance

**4. Title**            Adult Fatality Review Team; created, report

**5. Summary/Purpose:** Establishes an Adult Fatality Review Team and sets forth membership, duties, and reporting/confidentiality requirements. The bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Social Services, in coordination with the Chief Medical Examiner and other state and local agencies, to develop a team to review suspicious deaths of adults and create a body of information to help prevent future fatalities. Deaths of adults who were subjects of an adult protective service investigation or deaths that were thought to be due to abuse or neglect will be reviewed. All reviews by the team are to be initiated only at the conclusion of law enforcement investigation or criminal prosecution.

The 15-member team, co-chaired by the Commissioner and the Medical Examiner, includes members representing multidisciplinary state, local, and private organizations and agencies. All information obtained or generated shall be confidential and exempt from disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Upon conclusion of review, all information shall be destroyed. Violations of these requirements shall be punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor.

The team is required to compile an annual report for the Governor and General Assembly by October 1 of each year, which includes any policies, regulatory, or budgetary recommendations developed by the team. When developing its protocol and procedures, the team must review and consider the recommendations contained in the House Document No. 30 (2004) issued by DSS entitled "Virginia Adult Fatality Review Team: Preventing Fatal Abuse and Neglect of Virginia's Vulnerable Adults."

**6. Fiscal impact estimates are preliminary**

**Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2006-07	\$ 95,000	1.0	General Fund
2007-08	\$ 89,000	1.0	General Fund
2008-09	\$ 89,000	1.0	General Fund
2009-10	\$ 89,000	1.0	General Fund
2010-11	\$ 89,000	1.0	General Fund
2011-12	\$ 89,000	1.0	General Fund

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** Yes. Item 287.

**8. Fiscal implications:** As a result of investigating suspicious deaths, the Adult Fatality Review Team is expected to identify preventable deaths, determine gaps in service and coordination, and recommend improvements in policy, legislation, procedures, and best practices to prevent future fatalities. The costs associated with the Adult Fatality Review Team are based on the assumption that the team will review 200 cases annually and meet six times. Funding of \$95,000 is required in FY 2007 for the administrative costs associated with the team. Of this amount, \$76,800 will fund a full-time geriatric nurse coordinator position to collect, interpret, and summarize applicable cases for consideration and action by the team. The annual salary requirement is estimated at \$60,000, with \$16,800 in fringe benefits. The costs associated with the work of the team, including meeting expenses and report generation and printing are estimated at \$12,200 annually. One-time funding of \$6,000 in FY 2007 is included for the purchase of office furniture, computer equipment, and initial training.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Virginia Department of Social Services  
All local departments of social services  
Virginia Department of Health

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No

**11. Other comments:** This bill is a companion to HB 969.

**Date:** 01/24/06

**Document:** G:\2006 Fiscal Year\2006 GA Session\Efis 2006\SB635.Doc

cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources