

*Commission on Local Government*

**Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact**  
2008 General Assembly Session

**Bill: HB 1480**

**Patron: Kilgore**

**Date: January 25, 2008**

In accordance with the provisions of §30-19.03 – 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 legislation:

**I. Bill Summary**

HB 1480 requires a locality to allow a deputy sheriff injured in the line of duty to use accrued vacation, compensatory, and sick leave to supplement the deputy's workers' compensation allowance, so as to receive 100 percent compensation. The bill also requires the locality to continue to pay any employer's share of health insurance coverage for the injured deputy and his or her dependents, regardless of the length of disability.

**II. Fiscal Impact Analysis**

The Commission on Local Government received fiscal impact estimates concerning HB 1480 from 15 local governments (the Counties of Arlington, Campbell, Charles City, Fairfax, Henrico, James City, New Kent, Rappahannock and Rockingham; the Cities of Chesapeake, Lynchburg, Richmond, Roanoke, and Norfolk; and the Town of Blacksburg).

Nine localities reported no net additional expenditure from this measure (the Counties of Campbell, Charles City, Fairfax, Henrico and James City; the Cities of Chesapeake, Lynchburg and Norfolk; and the Town of Blacksburg).

Eight of the localities that reported no net additional expenditure from HB 1480 (the Counties of Campbell, Charles City, Fairfax, Henrico and James City and the Cities of Chesapeake, Lynchburg and Norfolk) indicated that their localities currently meet the standards proposed in the bill. The Town of Blacksburg indicated that HB 1480 does not apply to their locality.

New Kent County did not indicate whether HB 1480 would result in a net additional expenditure but commented that the bill would seem to compel the locality to pay the employer's share of health insurance even after the deputy died or workers' compensation ended. Arlington County reported a net additional expenditure of less than \$5,000 in the first year, noting that the county currently permits the use of accrued leave as required under HB 1480 and pays the employer's share of such health insurance coverage but only during the period of time an injured deputy is on workers' compensation in a paid status.

The fiscal impact estimates submitted by the three localities reporting a net additional expenditure of more than \$5,000 are as follows:

**City of Richmond**

**\$13,940 Total First Year Cost**

This estimate is for the potential increase in workers' compensation expenses based on the most recent five-year average.

**Rappahannock County****\$16,848 – 20,048 Total First Year Cost**

This estimate is for the cost of health insurance coverage based on the number of deputies injured and the length of disability, assuming the cost of family coverage under the locality's Local Choice Anthem health insurance plan.

**City of Roanoke****\$73,100 Total First Year Cost**

This estimate is for the cost of permitting deputies to use accrued leave to achieve 100 percent compensation plus the cost of health insurance coverage for deputies and their families. The estimate is based on the number of lost time claims multiplied by the average amount of leave per city employee plus the city and reserve contribution to health insurance multiplied by the ratio of sheriff's office employees to all city employees. The city notes that the cost of health insurance coverage would rise by \$20,646 per year after the first year as the city would be required to pay the employer's share of such coverage indefinitely.

**Rockingham County****\$80,000 - \$100,000 Total First Year Cost**

This estimate is for the cost of health insurance coverage based on the average number of deputies injured each year and the average length of disability.

**III. Conclusion**

The local fiscal impact of HB 1480 will vary by locality depending on whether and to what extent an individual locality currently (1) permits deputies injured in the line of duty to use accrued leave to achieve 100 percent compensation while receiving workers' compensation and (2) pays the employer's share of health insurance coverage for injured deputies and their families regardless of the length of disability. In addition, the cost will vary according to the number of deputy sheriffs employed in a locality as well as the rate of injuries experienced by such deputies in the line of duty. Because HB 1480 would require localities to continue to pay the employer's share of health insurance coverage for an injured deputy and his or her family for an indefinite period of time regardless of the length of disability, the costs associated with health insurance coverage would be significant in some cases.