

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2018 General Assembly Session

Bill: HB1367

Patron: Jones

Date: 1/29/2018

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

Bill Summary:

Requires localities to provide the State Coordinator of Emergency Management with certain data related to emergency sheltering capabilities on or before May 1 of each year.

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**Executive Summary:**

Localities have evaluated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0.00 - \$30,000.00, however most localities noted that the bill would have little to no fiscal impact, but requires additional staff time. They also noted that they already prepare and provide the required information in a different format/due date per existing law as part of their Emergency Operation Plan. The three that responded indicating a fiscal impact, noted that the costs would be administrative, and related to reassessing the existing building infrastructure for different hazards for compliance.

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**Local Analysis:**

**Locality:** Botetourt County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Botetourt County

Based on discussions with EMS Management, there is no significant hardship or material costs regarding the due date and any annual updates / revisions.

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Locality: City of Danville

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

The Fire Department, which oversees our emergency management efforts, does not foresee any additional expenditures with this proposal.

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**Locality:** City of Harrisonburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

There would be minimal financial impact and no cost implications. We have a good bit of the information already and getting the rest is not much work.

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Locality: City of Norfolk

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

City of Norfolk already tracks and reports this information as part of its Emergency Operations Plan.

Locality: City of Roanoke

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

There will be NO financial impacts for us. They will just require that we report the information as we already do annually, but at a different date. We open shelters but Red Cross provides all the equipment.

Locality: City of Winchester

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1,000.00

From our Emergency Mgt. Manager:

I have reviewed the proposed bill and compared such with the existing statute. For the most part it mirrors the existing with the exception of paragraph F. The proposed amendment to the statute will require each jurisdiction to provide an emergency management assessment which is very specific in nature. The current statute requires each subdivision provide an annual assessment to the State Coordinator of Emergency Management on or prior to July 1 of each year. The proposed is much more specific and in addition to the annual assessment requires data be submitted relating to emergency sheltering capabilities, including emergency shelter locations, evacuation zones, capacity by person, medical needs capacity, current wind rating, standards compliance, backup power and lead agency for staffing. The submittal date is proposed to be May 1 of each year rather than July 1.

I find the proposed to be somewhat ironic in so much as other than the LCAR (Local Capability Assessment for Readiness) which is required and submitted each year there is no other assessment submitted. I would hope that the specific criteria set forth in this bill would be included in the LCAR and not become a standalone report.

From the perspective of fiscal impact the addition of these items would create a slight increase from a fiscal perspective as related to time the first year. However, unless there were significant changes in the community the review and submittal of this data should be somewhat insignificant after the first year as much of the information should remain the same although it will require more communications with private/outside agencies in some cases. However, having said that the impact may be dependent on just how this is interpreted and implemented by VDEM's administration and the State Coordinator. The previous 4 years have seen vast changes in the VDEM organization, not all have been negative but there appears to be an increase desire to have greater control over the local jurisdictions.

Locality: County of Henrico

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$30,000.00

Henrico Emergency Management would have to reassess existing building infrastructure for different hazards. This takes about 10 hours per site for partners from Emergency Management, Building Officials Office, Health Department, Schools, Recreation and Parks, and Social Services to complete. This is an estimated investment of \$5,000 per site, with 6 sites, at \$30,000 per year to evaluate.

Locality: Fairfax County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$1.00

The release of shelter information described in the bill would create additional workload on the County resulting from the increased administrative burden. The precise fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time.

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**Locality:** Rockingham County

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$0.00

Rockingham County has this information readily accessible in our EOP. This should not have a major impact on the County.

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Locality: Spotsylvania County

Estimated Fiscal Impact: \$0.00

No financial impact.

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**Locality:** Town of Christiansburg

**Estimated Fiscal Impact:** \$300.00

We have an Emergency Operations Plan that already details sheltering capabilities, but it would need to be reviewed for full compliance (I would guess \$300 worth of staff time) and submit to the State Coordinator.

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Professional Organization Analysis:

Organization: Northern Neck PDC

The localities are already required to have Basic Emergency Operation Plans that contain this information. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management already possesses this information. The bill adds another unnecessary reporting requirement for localities. Legislative authority should not be used to promote collaborate within or among state agencies that should be a matter of course.

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**Organization:** Virginia's Region 2000 Local Government Council

Localities submit a Local Capabilities Assessment for Readiness in June/July of each year. Although it will take a bit more time to gather this additional information, it seems sensible to submit it as part of the Local Capabilities Assessment report.