

## **Fiscal Impact Review**

### **2018 General Assembly Session**

**Date:** March 2, 2018

**Bill number:** HJR 118 (Engrossed); Requesting the Department of Social Services to study regulation of independent living communities.

**Review requested by:** Chairman Hanger, Senate Finance Committee

#### **JLARC Staff Fiscal Estimates**

JLARC staff estimate that the study proposed in HJR 118 would not require additional funding. HJR 118 would direct the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) to study whether independent living communities should be regulated by a state agency. The VDSS commissioner indicates that VDSS can absorb the cost of the study in its existing budget.

*An explanation of the JLARC staff review is included on the pages that follow.*

**Authorized for release:**



**Hal E. Greer, Director**

## **Bill summary**

HJR 118 directs VDSS to study the need for the state to regulate independent living communities. The proposed study would examine the operations of independent living communities in Virginia; the extent to which they provide health care services to residents; whether they should be regulated and, if so, by which agency; and whether the state should establish an Independent Living Community Ombudsman to receive and respond to complaints from citizens.

## **Fiscal implications**

The study proposed in HJR 118 would not require additional funding. VDSS initially determined that the study would need to be done by an external consultant, at a cost of approximately \$50,000. That estimate is reasonable for a study of this scope and size. The VDSS commissioner has since indicated that VDSS would absorb the cost of the study within the agency's current budget, whether the study is done by agency staff or a consultant.

**Budget amendment necessary?** No.

**Agencies affected:** Virginia Department of Social Services

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