

## **Department of Planning and Budget 2019 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB1999

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Price

**3. Committee:** Militia, Police and Public Safety

**4. Title:** Department of Emergency Management; responsibilities of political subdivisions.

**5. Summary:** This bill directs the Department of Emergency Management (VDEM) to ensure that training programs and programs of public information and education regarding emergency services and disaster preparedness activities established and operated by state agencies are designed to include and reach individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs. The bill also directs VDEM to develop an emergency response plan to (i) address the needs of individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs in the event of a disaster, including the provisions of competent interpretation services and translated documents, and (ii) assist and coordinate with local agencies in developing a similar emergency response plan for individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs.

The bill also requires that every local and inter-jurisdictional emergency management agency include in its emergency operations plan provisions to ensure that adequate and timely emergency relief assistance, including competent interpretation services and translated documents is provided to individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs. It further requires the governing body of each locality with a population of over 50,000 to include adequate and timely warning to individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs in their emergency alert warning plans.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Indeterminate

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** Currently, VDEM maintains the Commonwealth of Virginia Operations Plan (COVEOP) and is responsible for assisting state agencies and local governments with establishing training programs and public information programs regarding emergency services and disaster preparedness activities. This bill requires that such plans and training programs address the needs of and be accessible by individuals with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs. According to VDEM, ensuring that existing response plans are able to accommodate those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or other special needs is currently implemented by the agency's Sheltering Coordinator.

Therefore, if the proposed legislation does not require a separate plan, this bill would not have a fiscal impact on agency operations.

However, if the intent of the provision is for VDEM to create a separate stand-alone response plans to accommodate such individuals, then according to VDEM, it would cost approximately \$50,000 (one-time) for a contractor to draft the plan, as well as one FTE at Pay Band 5 (approximately \$40,000 plus benefits) to review and manage the approval processes for plan updates. In addition, VDEM estimates that it would have to provide approximately 10 initial training courses to localities and state agencies related to the changes. The agency estimates that these training sessions would cost a total of \$32,000 (all instructor salary, instructor lodging, mileage and per diem, facility cost and material costs included). VDEM estimates that it would cost \$2,880 (one-time) to deliver training sessions online, if this delivery model is preferred or provided as a supplement to in-person courses. At this time, VDEM is unable to determine which method would be preferred by localities.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Emergency Management, state and local government agencies

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** None

**11. Other Comments:** None