

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB687ER

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

2. Patron: Aird

3. Committee: Passed both Houses.

4. Title: Doulas; certification; registry.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Health to adopt regulations governing the certification and practice of doulas and to develop and make available on its website a registry of certified doulas.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate, see item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill provides that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) shall make available to the public, through a certification body approved by the Board, a registry of state-certified doulas in the Commonwealth and a list of entities approved to provide training and education necessary to meet the requirements of certification. It is unclear whether the costs associated with providing both the registry and the list of entities would be supported by resources at VDH or the approved body. VDH anticipates that the costs to create and maintain a registry would be supported by fees charged by the approved body for individuals seeking certification, although the bill is silent on fees. Alternatively, if VDH is tasked with maintaining a registry of state-certified doulas and merely deploying it through the approved body, then the agency would need the resources to develop a system and supporting staff.

The Office of Family Health Services has no prior experience in certifying individuals and therefore does not have a certification system for the registry of doulas. While there are no direct cost estimates available for development, the following is provided for comparison purposes. The Office of Emergency Medical Services has a similar certification system for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and based on the costs of existing hardware and infrastructure, the cost to develop a similar system for a doula registry is estimated to be \$139,025 in the first year if developed by the agency. This amount also includes costs for the printing of certifications, online access for OFHS staff, and other programming needs. VDH would align this certification program with the current EMS certification system so that ongoing maintenance costs for the doula registry would be absorbed within existing resources for the EMS system. Under this scenario VDH would also require one wage position at \$66,007 per year to oversee the doula registry.

The Department of Health has indicated that the agency can absorb any costs associated with implementing the provisions of the bill within existing resources. Therefore, no budget amendment is needed.

The Department of Medical Assistance Services has stated there is no fiscal impact to the Medicaid program.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Virginia Department of Health.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.