

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB797H1

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Askew**3. Committee:** Education**4. Title:** Local school boards; lead testing; report; parental notification.

5. Summary: Requires each local school board to submit its plan to test and remediate certain potable water sources and report the results of any such test to the Department of Health. The bill also requires local school boards to take all necessary steps to notify parents if testing results indicate lead contamination that exceeds the maximum contaminant level goals set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This FIS was revised to include additional information.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item 8.**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary, see item 8.**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	\$195,950	01000
2022	\$45,700	01000
2023	\$45,700	01000
2024	\$45,700	01000
2025	\$45,700	01000
2026	\$45,700	01000

8. Fiscal Implications: The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) would need to develop a database to accept and track plans and results that school boards submit. Based on the cost of existing hardware and infrastructure for similar databases within the agency, the cost to develop a similar system is estimated to be \$195,950 in the first year. The ongoing operation and maintenance cost, including user access and support for the module is estimated to be \$45,700 per year.

The bill does not require VDH to take any action on the plans or results that local school boards submit. However, if VDH were required to review plans or provide technical assistance to the local school boards, additional resources would be necessary. The

department maintains that it would be necessary to review each plan, submit feedback to the local school boards, further review each plan, conduct water sampling at each school, and test each water sample. There are approximately 2,106 schools in Virginia that would each submit a plan to VDH for review. The total number of priority water sources to be tested at each school is currently unknown. However, VDH estimates that each school would have an average of 95 taps per school to sample to comply with § 22.1-135.1 of the Code of Virginia. Assuming each school does one initial round of sampling, which would be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's guidance, VDH estimates that would result in the schools collecting and analyzing almost 200,000 water samples for lead (95 taps x 2,100 schools = 199,950). If the bills intent is for VDH to take an active role in review plans or providing assistance, the agency estimates it would need approximately 1.5 positions and a contractor to handle this increase in workload. The cost of these positions is estimated to be \$188,024 and is not included in table 7 above.

The bill provides that each local school board shall, if necessary, remediate potable water sources identified as a high priority for testing and to report the results of any tests to VDH.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Virginia Department of Health and all local school boards.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.