

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB315

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

2. Patron: Kiggans

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Hospitals; emergency departments; screening patients for depression.

5. Summary: Requires every hospital licensed by the Department of Health that operates an emergency department to develop a protocol for (i) screening each patient who receives services in the emergency department for depression and (ii) providing information about depression, symptoms of depression, services that may be available for individuals experiencing depression, and providers of such services to each patient for whom a screening indicates reason to believe the patient may be experiencing depression. The bill directs the Department to develop such information.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	\$56,912	0.25	General
2022	\$26,267	0.25	General
2023	\$26,267	0.25	General
2024	\$26,267	0.25	General
2025	\$26,267	0.25	General

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would have a fiscal impact on the Commonwealth. The bill directs the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to develop information about depression, symptoms of depression, services that may be available for individuals experiencing depression, and providers of such services to be distributed to patients. To properly develop and maintain accurate detailed information is a complex task. VDH's Office of Licensure and Certification (OLC) estimates it would require two contractors, knowledgeable of the medical field, preferably with a psychology nursing background, two full months to initially search out all of the services available for depressed individuals and providers of those services and to write the initial information for patients. The annual cost of one psychology nurse contractor is \$91,935, therefore the cost of a two psychology nurse contractors to develop this information is estimated to be \$30,645 for two months.

Since services and providers can change, VDH would need to update any information monthly to add new providers or remove providers that have left the field or area. OLC estimates that this will take 40 hours each month to complete. A Medical Facilities Inspector (MFI) would have the proper skillset to accomplish these tasks. However, due to the heavy workloads, additional staff is needed as these tasks cannot be absorbed by existing staff. An MFI salary averages \$105,069 (including fringe benefits), therefore a position at 40 hours a month would be \$26,267 annually. A contractor or wage employee could be considered, however, the expertise and consistency of an FTE is needed for the detail of a project such as this. First year costs are for the two psychology nurse contractors (\$30,645) and the MFI (\$26,267).

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.