

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2023 General Assembly Session | 01/19/23

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

HB 1798: Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy. (Patron: Delegate Shelly A. Simonds)

Bill Summary: Comprehensive plan; healthy communities strategy. Authorizes cities with populations greater than 20,000 and counties with populations greater than 100,000, beginning July 1, 2023, to consider, at the next and all subsequent reviews of the comprehensive plan, adopting a healthy communities strategy. The bill provides that the locality's strategy may include identifying neighborhoods with major sources of pollution or hazardous waste and identifying objectives and policies to reduce health risks in such neighborhoods, to promote civic engagement by residents of such neighborhoods, and to prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of such neighborhoods.

Local Fiscal Impact: Net Additional Expenditure: x Net Reduction of Revenues:

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 5 Cities, 8 Counties, 6 Towns, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$40,000 over the biennium. Three localities provided estimates of potential costs, ranging from \$1,000 to \$40,000.

Because many localities are below the 100,000-person population threshold, this bill would not apply to them. Localities above the threshold noted that the bill authorizes, but does not mandate, them to include a healthy communities strategy. However, if localities choose to proceed with adopting a healthy communities strategy in their comprehensive plan, this would require additional staff time, consultants and/or subject matter experts potentially producing a negative fiscal impact.

As introduced, this bill is identical to SB 1322 (McClellan and Hashmi).

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Juris	Recurring Expense- Personnel		Recurring Expense - Operating		Recurring Expense - Capital		Recurring Expense - Other	
		FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24
City of Alexandria	City			\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000				
City of Danville	City								
City of Harrisonburg	City								
City of Manassas	City								
City of Norfolk	City								
Augusta County	County								
Henrico County	County								
Mecklenburg County	County								
Montgomery County	County							\$ 6,000	
Prince George County	County								
Rappahannock County	County								
Roanoke County	County								
Rockingham County	County								
Northern Neck PDC	Other								
Town of Blacksburg	Town								
Town of Christiansburg	Town								
Town of Leesburg	Town								
Town of Luray	Town								
Town of Marion	Town								
Town of Scottsville	Town								

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Nonrecurring Expense - Operating		Nonrecurring Expense - Capital		Nonrecurring Expense - Other		Penny Value of Increase on Real Estate Rate*	Total Increase in Expenses (Biennium Total)
	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24		
City of Alexandria								\$ 40,000
City of Danville								
City of Harrisonburg								
City of Manassas								
City of Norfolk								
Augusta County								
Henrico County								
Mecklenburg County								
Montgomery County								\$ 6,000
Prince George County								
Rappahannock County								
Roanoke County								
Rockingham County								
Northern Neck PDC								
Town of Blacksburg								
Town of Christiansburg								
Town of Leesburg								
Town of Luray								
Town of Marion								
Town of Scottsville					\$ 1,000		0.0015	\$ 1,000

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Alexandria	Since the language is authorizing, as opposed to mandating, it would seem from the City's Health Department perspective that any additional costs would be related to subject matter experts providing insight on these topics, community engagement, and perhaps costs related to a CHA/CHIP to assist. Contractor costs for past assessment support was \$20,000.
City of Danville	
City of Harrisonburg	This bill's exact impact on the City's expenditures is unknown, but it would increase costs. Increased costs would come in the form of paying a consultant to help update the Comprehensive Plan as well as in the form of additional staff time when updating the Comprehensive Plan.
City of Manassas	
City of Norfolk	Based on the bill's description, we read this as this is not a mandatory new requirement. The city of Norfolk already has extensive civic outreach through the Community Services Board and a resident survey.
Augusta County	
Henrico County	Bill doesn't mandate changes and departments are already considering or have implemented many of the strategies addressed in this bill. Could potentially impact real estate values by labeling properties with exposure to hazardous materials, but it is difficult to determine what that impact could possibly be.
Mecklenburg County	We do not have a population greater than the amount required by the proposed 15.2 - 2223.6(A).
Montgomery County	This would be something we would incorporate into our plan re-write which is scheduled to begin sometime this year. It could lead to an increased cost in the development of the plan as additional research/development may be needed; however, I could not estimate an exact figure. At the most maybe \$5-6k?
Prince George County	We fall under the 100,000 population threshold and this legislation would not impact our expenditures.
Rappahannock County	
Roanoke County	N/A -under the population threshold.
Rockingham County	
Northern Neck PDC	Neither the NNPDC nor any of its member-localities reaches the population thresholds impacted by this legislation. Input from affected localities should be considered.
Town of Blacksburg	If passed, this change would not require any additional funding, as the town has existing plans (NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan, TOB Climate Vulnerability Assessment, etc.) referenced in the Town Comprehensive Plan.
Town of Christiansburg	The proposed provision seems to allow this as an option, so it is not required.
Town of Leesburg	This bill only applies to cities and counties, so it does not affect the Town of Leesburg.
Town of Luray	

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Town of Marion	
Town of Scottsville	Subsection C enables small towns to opt in and include the health strategy in the town comprehensive plan. Our town has this strategic interest and would probably accept this policy guidance. The \$1,000 cost estimate represents staff time to summarize and draft a narrative using existing health strategy documents in the region. Community health would be included in the agendas of meetings within an existing Comprehensive Plan update process.

* Penny value is defined as the amount a locality would need to raise their real estate tax rate to cover the fiscal impacts of the bill, assuming no other changes to revenues or expenditures. It is represented in terms of dollars (e.g., 0.01 is a one cent increase in the real estate tax rate, etc.).