

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1059

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

2. **Patron:** Helmer

3. **Committee:** Health and Human Services

4. **Title:** Hospital price transparency; private right of action; patient payment disputes; noncompliance.

5. **Summary:** Allows patients, if a hospital is not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws on the date that an elective procedure, test, or service is provided to a patient by the hospital, and the noncompliance is related to such elective procedure, test, or service, to bring an action, individually or jointly, against the hospital to recover payment of the price of the elective procedure, test, or service. Under the bill, if a hospital is found not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws under such circumstances, the hospital is liable for the price of the elective procedure, test, or service provided; an additional equal amount as liquidated damages; interest accruing from the date the elective procedure, test, or service was provided; and reasonable attorney fees and costs. If a hospital is found not in compliance with hospital price transparency laws under such circumstances, the hospital is liable for an amount equal to triple the amount of the price of the elective procedure, test, or service and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The total impact the provisions of this legislation would have on the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) cannot be determined. VDH does not have readily available data to estimate the potential volume of complaints that may be generated from this legislative change and cannot estimate whether it can be absorbed with existing resources. If the provisions of the bill lead to an appreciable increase in complaints against hospitals, VDH may need additional Health Care Compliance Specialists II to handle complaint intake and investigation; this would increase personnel, travel, and lodging costs for the agency. As such, the fiscal impact is indeterminate.

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

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. Other Comments: None.