

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB22

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

2. Patron: Locke

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact; authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Compact.

5. Summary: Authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact. The Compact increases public access to dental services by permitting eligible licensed dentists and dental hygienists to practice in Compact participating states, provided that they are licensed in at least one participating state. The Compact has been passed in three states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of the bill, whichever is later.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Health Professions would incur costs for participation in a Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact, however, there is insufficient information available to determine the impact. The agency indicates that there will be costs incurred for membership and for travel by staff and board members. Additionally, there may be some loss of revenue as licensed audiologists and speech-language pathologists from other states who would currently need a license to practice dentistry and dental hygiene services in Virginia would be recognized as licensed practitioners in the compact. According to the Department of Health Professions, the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact has not provided its fee structure to member states and therefore any fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time for participation in the compact.

Additionally, because this compact requires criminal background checks (CBC), there will be an impact to the Virginia State Police (VSP). The impact to DHP to implement background checks is minimal, as the Department of Health Professions has a criminal background check unit originally put in place for the Nurse Licensure Compact. That unit handles CBC for all other compacts that fall under the agency and it will not require additional personnel. Additionally, VSP estimates there would be approximately 835 additional background checks as a result of this bill. Currently, one fingerprint technician can process 10,000 checks per year. Therefore, the potential increase can be handled within existing resources. However, if

the total number of background checks for all passed legislation exceeds 10,000 then additional resources may be necessary.

Lastly, the Compact has been passed in three states and takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh participating state or upon the effective date of the bill, whichever is later. As such, no budget amendment is necessary until the Compact is enacted.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Department of Health Professions and the Virginia State Police.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB225, introduced by Delegate Sickles.