

## Department of Planning and Budget 2004 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** SB565

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

**2. Patron** Lambert

**3. Committee** General Laws

**4. Title** Virginia Health and Human Services Metadata Clearinghouse.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

Requires the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) to conduct an inventory of the databases or data repositories within the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources. The inventory will be revised every three years or at such shorter intervals as the chief information officer of VITA and the Secretary determine appropriate.

The inventory must be developed in the manner of a metadata clearinghouse for health and human services delivered in and around the Commonwealth that is comprised of technical and general system documentation and aggregate descriptions of the data, including, but not necessarily limited to: hardware platforms, software environments, and general system documentation. The Secretary will direct the development of the Metadata clearinghouse.

The inventory will be for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of a consistent, reliable, and secure information technology infrastructure for the data-sharing partnership established by § 32.1-127.1:04 relating to the use and disclosure between the departments within the Secretariat of Health and Human Services of protected health information in compliance with federal patient privacy protections and to increase the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the services reflected in the databases and data repositories within the Secretariat. The metadata clearinghouse will be developed and implemented in three, interrelated and interdependent phases.

Phase I will consist of a survey of the agencies in the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources to identify the presently used systems that contain protected health information and development of a browser-based database that will facilitate queries of such information by such agencies; Phase II will consist of a survey of the agencies in the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources to determine the technical and high level data architectures supporting the systems identified in Phase I; and Phase III will consist of compiling information on the systems of each of the agencies in the Secretariat of Health and Human Resources relating to data structures, e.g., data element name, description, and type and incorporating this information into the browser-based database developed in Phase I and enhanced in Phase II. In simple terms, Phase I will determine which systems contain protected health information and communicate the systems across the agencies; Phase II will determine the technical requirements to support each database; and Phase III will categorize and standardize the data across the databases.

Upon receiving an estimate provided by VITA on the costs for completing Phase III, the Secretary of Health and Human Resources shall determine whether Phase III development shall be continued.

This bill is a recommendation of the Joint Subcommittee Studying Lead-Poisoning Prevention as a means of enhancing the already productive data-sharing partnership--an initiative of the Joint Subcommittee in 2002.

**6. Fiscal Impact is not available.** (See Item 8.)

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:** The fiscal impact from this legislation is indeterminate. One agency has indicated that it will be able to satisfy the requirements of the legislation with a minimal expenditure. But another agency, the Department of Medicaid Assistance Services (DMAS), has indicated that it will require at least \$484,100 the first year and one additional full-time position. DMAS estimates it will incur an ongoing annual cost of at least \$71,410.

The Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) has estimated the Phase I portion of this legislation will require it to expend \$505,206 general fund in the 2004-2006 biennium and have at least \$92,000 in annual on-going costs. It estimated Phase II will cost approximately \$647,000 the first year and incur \$225,000 in on-going costs. VITA has estimated it will further require a full-time consultant staff and additional server hardware. VITA estimates staff costs in client agencies will occur but cannot estimate what will be expended.

Potential costs for phase III of this legislation are not included in this impact statement. Estimates for phase III will depend upon findings resulting from phases I and II. There may be no phase III costs because the legislation allows for the Secretary of Health and Human Resources to make a determination whether or not to proceed with phase III implementation.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Secretariat of Health and Human Resources, Virginia Information Technologies Agency, all health and human resource agencies.

**10. Technical amendment necessary:** No.

**11. Other comments:** Existing Code language requires that every public body of state government shall compile, and annually update, an index of computer databases that contains at a minimum those databases created by them on or after July 1, 1997. "Computer database" means a structured collection of data or records residing in a computer..

**Date:** 01/30/04 / MWG/

**Document:** (DPB G:\FIS\04\VITA\SB565.DOC)

cc: Secretary of Technology  
Secretary of Health and Human Resources