

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB 1958

House of Origin	<u>X</u>	Introduced	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Engrossed
Second House	<u> </u>	In Committee	<u> </u>	Substitute	<u> </u>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Mathieson

3. Committee: Militia, Police, and Public Safety

4. Title: Infectious disease presumption; emergency declaration by Governor

5. Summary: Authorizes the Governor to declare that a communicable, contagious, or infectious disease is a disease that is covered by the existing infectious disease presumption for firefighters, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and certain law-enforcement officers under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act. The presumption currently exists for hepatitis, meningococcal meningitis, tuberculosis, and HIV. Such a declaration may be made after the Board of Health has issued an order for the purpose of suppressing the outbreak of the disease and the Governor has declared a state of emergency due to an outbreak of the disease that poses a danger to the life and health of the public.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See item #8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

8. Fiscal Implications: The legislation may result in an increase in the number of claims filed with the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission on behalf of either the claimant or employer in the case of a work-related diagnosis of an occupational disease, which would require the declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor. The potential increase in the number of claims filed under the Virginia Workers' Compensation Act cannot be determined. The legislation also expands the definition of infectious disease presumption, which would limit the number of claims litigated.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Health and Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This legislation is identical to HB 2478.

Date: 1/19/2009 lrj

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources