

Department of Planning and Budget 2009 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 1437

House of Origin X Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Miller, Y.B.

3. Committee: Education and Health

4. Title: **State surgeon general; duties**

5. Summary: Establishes a State Surgeon General, to be appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the General Assembly. The Surgeon General shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth and shall be certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine or a recognized board in a primary care specialty as approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties and experienced in public health.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item #8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: To be determined.

8. Fiscal Implications: The fiscal implications of this bill cannot be determined at this time. Based on the legislation, it is unclear if the State Surgeon General is created as a salaried position (similar to state agency heads) or as an unpaid position. There are also costs associated with the State Surgeon General's duties that cannot be determined at this time, which include, but are not limited to, travel related to acting as the health care advocate, educating the public, serving as the point of contact with state medical schools, promoting research activities, additional staff that may be required to assist in carrying out these duties, and office related expenses.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Health, Secretary of Health and Human Resources, major universities and state medical schools, and the National Institute of Health

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: It is also unclear from the legislation if the State Surgeon General would be allowed to serve concurrently as an agency head or cabinet member, similar to Florida's State Surgeon General who also serves as the Secretary of the Department of Health.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 316 has been introduced for the 2009 General Assembly Session to direct the Joint Commission on Health Care to study the feasibility and value of establishing a State Surgeon General as non-paid position in Virginia. The Commission is expected to complete its meetings by November 30, 2009. It is important to note that the

fiscal impact of this legislation is preliminary and requires more in depth research and analysis.

Date: 1/28/2009 lrj

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cc: Secretary of Health and Human Resources