

## Department of Planning and Budget 2011 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB 1841ER

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Howell, A.T.

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** Obstetrical and pediatric pilot programs; annual report

**5. Summary:** Repeals the requirement for the Department of Health to annually report to the Joint Commission on Health Care on the impact and effectiveness of certain obstetrical and pediatric pilot programs in underserved areas.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** None.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** No.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** When Section 32.1-11.5, Code of Virginia, was enacted, \$150,000 in state support was provided to the Virginia Department of Health for the start-up costs of two obstetrical pilot programs in Emporia and Northern Neck. The programs were established to provide alternative arrangements for prenatal and delivery services in areas where obstetrical departments at community hospitals no longer existed. Effective July 1, 2010, all state support for both pilot programs was eliminated and both programs are now fully functional.

The Department is required by Section 32.1-11.5, Code of Virginia, to submit an annual report to the Joint Commission on Health Care concerning pilot programs, authorized by the State Board of Health, for obstetrical and pediatric care in underserved areas. This annual reporting requirement is no longer necessary to protect public health. The Department believes that the repeal of this requirement will allow them to make more efficient use of limited staff resources. The Department also intends to require the birthing centers to share with it a copy of the data that they submit to the American Association of Birthing Centers. The Department intends to utilize that information to periodically apprise the State Board of Health of the status of the birthing centers.

**Date:** 2/25/2011

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