

Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB319H1

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

2. Patron: Rasoul

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Volunteer health care providers; agreements with Department of Health.

5. Summary: Authorizes the Department of Health to enter into written agreements with health care providers for the provision of health care services, without compensation, to low-income individuals receiving health services through a local health department or a health care facility licensed by the Department and operated by a nonprofit entity; provides that health care providers who have entered into such agreements shall enjoy the protection of the Commonwealth's sovereign immunity to the same extent as paid staff of the Department while acting within the scope of the volunteer agreement; and allows health care providers who provide health care services pursuant to such agreements to use such service to satisfy continuing education requirements.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary, see item #8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact that this bill as amended would have on the Commonwealth cannot be determined at this time, however the agency does anticipate a fiscal impact based on the provisions of the bill. If VDH enters into the agreement they would be required to, establish a quality assurance program that will monitor the quality of care provided, maintain a list of all volunteer health care providers on a website, and file an annual report on the number of health care providers, number of low-income individuals receiving services, value of services provided, and any claim of malpractice brought against the provider during the prior year.

As currently written, the legislation does not require VDH to enter into these agreements and the agency is unable to accurately estimate the number of potential volunteer healthcare providers that would choose to participate. Therefore the size and scope of this process cannot be determined at this time.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The agency is scheduled to meet with the patron for clarification of his intent.