

Department of Planning and Budget

2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB791

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

2. Patron: Plum

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Comprehensive harm reduction programs.

5. Summary: Repeals the sunset on the authority of the Commissioner of Health to establish and operate local or regional comprehensive harm reduction programs that include the distribution of sterile hypodermic needles and syringes and the disposal of used hypodermic needles and syringes; allows a local health department or other organization that promotes scientifically proven methods of mitigating health risks associated with drug use and other high-risk behaviors to establish comprehensive harm reduction programs; and eliminates the requirement that comprehensive harm reduction programs be located in communities for which data indicates an increase in or increased risk of transmission of HIV, viral hepatitis, or other blood-borne disease as a result of injection drug use. The bill includes an emergency clause.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. No Fiscal Impact.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill repeals the sunset on the provision to operate comprehensive harm reduction programs, which would allow the Virginia Department of Health to continue operating these programs. The Department of Health indicates that this bill would not result in any general fund cost. VDH has sufficient existing federal appropriation and resources to meet the provisions of the bill and would not need additional resources to operate the program at current levels. Any increase in workload as a result of this bill is assumed to be absorbed by the agency or the agency will seek additional appropriation.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Virginia Department of Health. Political subdivisions would vary by the geographic location of increases in blood-borne pathogen morbidity.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.