

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB564

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed  
**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Edwards

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Virginia Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System; language development for children who are deaf or hard of hearing.

5. **Summary:** Expands the responsibilities of the advisory committee of the Virginia Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System to include selecting language development milestones for educators and early intervention specialists for use in assessing the language and literacy development of children from birth to age five who are deaf or hard or hearing. The bill requires the addition of at least two language experts to the advisory committee. The bill also requires that children identified as deaf or hard of hearing in special education programs be evaluated yearly on the basis of the language development milestones established by the advisory committee.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 137 and Item 301.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**7a. Expenditure Impact:**

Department of Health

<i><b>Fiscal Year</b></i>	<i><b>Dollars</b></i>	<i><b>Positions</b></i>	<i><b>Fund</b></i>
2021	395,641	2.0	General
2022	306,374	2.0	General
2023	306,374	2.0	General
2024	306,374	2.0	General
2025	306,374	2.0	General

Department of Education

<i><b>Fiscal Year</b></i>	<i><b>Dollars</b></i>	<i><b>Positions</b></i>	<i><b>Fund</b></i>
2021	\$75,150	0.5	General
2022	\$70,150	0.5	General
2023	\$70,150	0.5	General
2024	\$70,150	0.5	General
2025	\$70,150	0.5	General

## **8. Fiscal Implications:**

The Virginia Early Hearing Detection & Intervention program (EHDI) program coordinates follow-up activities for newborns identified as at risk for hearing loss. EHDI program staff and activities are currently funded by a combination of three federal grants, two of which are competitive grants and awarded by Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Universal Newborn Hearing Screening, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), and Title V. Currently, the EHDI program, nationally and within the state, tracks and provides services for children 0-36 months of age.

The proposed legislation is not within the current scope of the EHDI program. The proposed legislation would require the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to expand its scope to track the language development of children who are identified as deaf or hard of hearing using the Virginia Hearing Loss Identification and Monitoring System. In order to fulfill this requirement, the program's reporting system, the Virginia Infant Screening and Infant Tracking System (VISITS) would require significant enhancements to capture language and literacy milestones, including the addition of a new module and the need for additional servers to compensate for increased user capacity and data storage. VDH's Office of Information Management (OIM) has estimated these enhancements to be a one-time cost of \$64,267.

The VISITS online database requires constant monitoring and surveillance by program staff to ensure quality and efficiency in its use. Currently, there are over 500 users in the database that report hearing-related data. The implementation of this bill would add an estimated 250 new users. Due to this increase, the program would need a full-time Technical Assistance Specialist to provide training and education to new users, as well as provide oversight and support for the additional data capture and technical assistance to all users. The annual cost of salary and fringe is estimated to be \$129,487.

This legislation, if passed, would require adding new scope to the EHDI program; therefore, a full-time position that specializes in the area of language development for children who are deaf and or hard of hearing would be essential. This position would focus on the development of the additional module and develop logic for enhancements to VISITS in order to capture language and literacy milestones and other related data points. Additionally, this position would collaborate with the Department of Education and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to establish a data sharing agreement and consultation services. The annual cost of salary and fringe is estimated to be \$129,487.

These two positions will also require annual support costs for supplies, travel and computer/VITA charges, estimated to be \$15,000, \$14,000, and \$16,800, respectively.

This bill would require the VA EHDI program to extend the range at which it collects data to children 0-5 years old. This change would require VA EHDI to update its scope of services to include updates to the website and protocols for all stakeholders. When updated, EHDI protocols are mailed to all pediatric primary care providers, pediatric audiologists, and birthing hospitals across the state. The estimated cost for printing protocols and postage is \$25,000.

The current members on the EHDI advisory committee align with the scope of EHDI's work involving improvement and enhancement of hearing screening, early diagnosis of hearing loss and timely referrals for children identified as deaf or hard of hearing. Travel support for the addition of two experts who research language outcomes for children at risk for developing hearing loss to the Commissioner's appointed advisory committee is estimated at \$1,600 annually (\$200 per meeting to include travel, lodging and interpreter services x 4 meetings/year).

The Virginia Department of Education (DOE) will need to assemble two meetings of stakeholders to identify, select, and vet assessments that meet the language developmental milestones chosen by the advisory board. DOE estimates \$5,000 in FY 2021 to support these meetings. Additionally, DOE will need to hire a 0.5 full-time-equivalent position to train local school divisions on the use of these assessments for students with disabilities. DOE estimates an annual cost of \$60,150 for salary and benefits and \$10,000 for technology and travel expenses to support this position.

#### FY 2021

##### Virginia Department of Health

2 FTE including fringe	\$ 258,974.00
FTE Supplies	\$ 15,000.00
FTE Travel	\$ 14,000.00
FTE Computer Service/VITA	\$ 16,800.00
OIM Contractual Services	\$ 64,267.00
Printing (new Protocols)	\$ 25,000.00
Travel for new Advisory Committee Members	\$ 1,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 395,641.00</b>

##### Virginia Department of Education

0.5 FTE including fringe	\$ 60,150.00
FTE Computer Service/VITA & Travel	\$ 10,000.00
Stakeholder meetings	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 75,150.00</b>

#### FY 2022 –FY 2025 and beyond

##### Virginia Department of Health

2 FTE including fringe	\$ 258,974.00
FTE Supplies	\$ 15,000.00
FTE Travel	\$ 14,000.00
FTE Computer Service/VITA	\$ 16,800.00
Travel for new Advisory Committee Members	\$ 1,600.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 306,374.00</b>

Virginia Department of Education

0.5 FTE including fringe	\$ 60,150.00
FTE Computer Service/VITA & Travel	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 70,150.00</b>

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Audiologists, Parents, VA EHDI Advisory Committee, Infant & Toddler Connection, Virginia Department of Education, Department Behavioral Health and Developmental Services

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None