

Department of Planning and Budget

2019 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB720H1

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

2. Patron: McClellan

3. Committee: Labor and Commerce

4. Title: PSAP dispatchers; telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation; Emergency Medical Dispatch education program

5. Summary: The proposed legislation requires the Department of Health (VDH) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), by December 1, 2020, to adopt standards for training and equipment required for the provision of high-quality telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation (TCPR) by dispatchers, as specified. The bill also requires on or before January 1, 2022, each Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) to provide training in TCPR to each dispatcher in its employment and shall provide its dispatchers with equipment necessary for the provision of TCPR, as specified. The proposed legislation also: (i) requires OEMS to adopt necessary regulations to implement the proposed legislation; (ii) authorizes a PSAP to enter into reciprocal agreements with another PSAP to transfer callers to the other PSAP at times that the initial PSAP does not have a trained dispatcher on duty able to provide TCPR; (iii) establishes immunity from civil damages for dispatchers who instruct a caller on TCPR; (iv) requires each operator of a PSAP to implement a requirement that each of its dispatchers complete an Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) education program that complies with the minimum standards established by OEMS by July 1, 2024, and to conduct ongoing quality assurance of its TCPR program. Lastly, the bill requires OEMS to ensure that every dispatcher that has satisfactorily completed an EMD education program, and his employing PSAP, receive a certificate of completion of the required education program, and maintain an updated education program.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Item 296.

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

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	\$0	0	N/A
2022	\$113,790	1	02130
2023	\$113,790	1	02130
2024	\$113,790	1	02130

- 8. Fiscal Implications:** The bill requires the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) to adopt standards for training and equipment required under the provisions of the bill by December 1, 2020. The standards are to be updated as frequently as necessary, but not more frequently than biennially. The bill further provides that on or before January 1, 2022, each PSAP must provide training in telecommunicator cardiopulmonary resuscitation (TCPR) to each of its dispatchers and shall provide equipment as necessary. The provisions of the bill require that by January 1, 2024, each operator of a PSAP shall implement a requirement that each of its dispatchers shall by July 1, 2024, have completed an Emergency Medical Dispatch education program that complies with minimum standards established by the OEMS. The agency estimates it will need \$113,790 for one regulatory specialist to develop and maintain the specified standards as well as develop, conduct, and audit training requirements. Based upon the phased approach of this bill, this FTE would not be needed until FY2022. VDH has stated that an increase in nongeneral fund appropriation (02130) would be used to cover the costs of the position as this fund source has seen an increase in revenues.

There are numerous no cost training opportunities and tool kits available to aid OEMS in the development of a TCPR training program at a marginal cost.

The Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) grant program provides funding to not-for-profit and governmental entities to support emergency medical dispatch (EMD) training, equipment and supplies. The RSAF grant program does not provide funding for TCPR training. Since completion of an EMD education program will be mandatory for dispatchers, the agency anticipates that PSAPs will prioritize RSAF grant funds to support EMD education programs and be less likely to request support for equipment, vehicles, and supplies. However, it cannot be determined how many additional PSAPs will seek out RSAF grant funds.

The impact on localities that operate a PSAP cannot be determined at this time.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Department of Health; Virginia Information Technology Agencies; Public Safety Answering Points, law-enforcement agencies.

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

- 11. Other Comments:** None