

Department of Planning and Budget
2020 Special Session I - Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB5057

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|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 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: Freitas

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Certain health care providers; licensure or certification by endorsement.

5. Summary: Requires the Board of Health to issue a certification by endorsement to any applicant for certification as an emergency medical services provider who holds a valid, unrestricted licensure or certification as an emergency medical services provider under the laws of another state, the District of Columbia, or a United States possession or territory and, in the opinion of the Board of Health, meets the qualifications necessary for certification as an emergency medical services provider in the Commonwealth. The bill also requires the Board of Medicine to issue a license or certificate by endorsement to an applicant who holds a valid, unrestricted license or certificate under the laws of another state, the District of Columbia, or a United States territory or possession with which the Commonwealth has not established a reciprocal relationship upon endorsement by the appropriate board or other appropriate authority of such other states, the District of Columbia, or United States territory or possession and a determination by the Board of Medicine that the applicant's credentials are satisfactory to the Board of Medicine and the examinations and passing grades required by such other board or authority are fully equal to those required by the Board of Medicine.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Position only, item 296.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would have a nongeneral fund fiscal impact on the Commonwealth, specifically the Department of Health (VDH) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) to provide certification by endorsement. For comparative purposes, a breakdown of the workload and costs for the current processes of legal recognition or reciprocity, which provide identical results as endorsement, require the following:

- Receive endorsement request, process applicant packet to be mailed, and provide information to endorsement applicant – 1 hour
- Cost of mailing application - \$3.00
- Receipt of application, verification of their certification from home state, scanning application, processing fingerprint results, processing application – 2.5 hours
- Cost of fingerprint background check – \$35.72

- Cost of mailing certification card – current rate of first class postage \$0.55 per ounce – estimate of \$3.75 per certification card
- The hourly processing cost is the average of all staff tasked with legal recognition and reciprocity packet processing of \$18.33 per hour.

This is the estimated cost for a single applicant. Currently, VDH experiences 10 – 15 application packets per week for legal recognition and/or reciprocity. While the exact volume for endorsement is unknown, based on the volume off legal recognition and reciprocity, it is estimated that there would be an additional 520 application packets for review and processing per year. VDH would require one position to process this increase in workload.

- Application packet processing time – 1,820 hours x \$18.33 per hour = \$33,360.60
- Other costs (mailing application, mailing certification card, background checks) - \$22,084.40
- Total annual cost - \$55,445.00

The agency has current nongeneral fund resources that can be used fund the position. OEMS receives funding allocated from the Four for Life program annually. This funding is legislated by the Code of Virginia § 46.2-694, which stipulates that an additional \$4 per year is charged and collected at the time of vehicle registration and a portion of which is set aside as a special fund to be used only for EMS purposes. VDH will use these special fund revenues to support the position.

Additionally, no fee would be charged for this service, as the cost of background checks are paid for by the Office of Emergency Medical Services as required by Chapter 1289 item 296 G. “The cost of the criminal background shall be paid from funds available to the Office of Emergency Medical Services.” OEMS has no general funds. As stated above, current revenues from Four for Life will pay for this. This funding would have otherwise be used for discretionary services such as grants, education or special projects for EMS systems.

VDH has stated that any costs for IT enhancements for the emergency medical services databases and online applications would be minimal and could be absorbed within existing resources.

This bill would not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Health Professions. The Board of Medicine already licenses practitioners from other states by endorsement.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Virginia Department of Health/Board of Health, Governor’s Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, Virginia Department of Health Professional/Board of Medicine, other US states and territories, and Virginia EMS agencies.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.