

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

**1. Bill Number:** SB5025

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

**2. Patron:** Newman

**3. Committee:** Education and Health

**4. Title:** Board and Commissioner of Health; emergency orders and regulations; duration.

**5. Summary:** Provides that any emergency order or regulation adopted by the Board of Health shall be valid for no more than 30 days and that such order may be extended by the Board of Health for a subsequent period of 30 days but that in no case shall such emergency order or regulation be valid for more than 18 months from the effective date of the initial order or regulation. The bill also provides that in any case in which the Commissioner of Health exercises the authority of the Board of Health to enact an emergency order or regulation, such order or regulation shall be valid for no more than 30 days from the effective date of the order or regulation unless the Board of Health adopts an order or regulation to such effect.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The total fiscal impact this bill would have on the Commonwealth cannot be determined. Currently, the Board meets quarterly and at all other times the Commissioner of Health is vested with the full authority of the Board. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board met in person in Richmond. When meeting in person, Board members are reimbursed for the travel, lodging, and meal expenses. The total cost of the most recent in person meeting (December 2019) was \$1,532.98 (Hotel \$435.08, Food \$394.96, and Travel/Per Diem \$712.94).

The fiscal implications of this bill are, in part, dependent upon when and if the Board of Health (the Board) resumes in-person meetings in Richmond and if the required meeting had to be held separate from the regular quarterly meeting. If the Board was required to meet every 30 days at a time that was not a regular scheduled meeting and was able to meet in person to extend various emergency orders that have been issued, VDH would incur estimated expenses of \$1,532 every 30 days for a period not to exceed 18 months.

Since June 2020, the Board has met virtually via Webex due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Those virtual meetings have not required reimbursement for any travel, lodging or meal expenses. If the Board continues to meet virtually these expenses would be avoided.

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

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.