

Commission on Local Government

Estimate of Local Fiscal Impact

2023 General Assembly Session | 01/12/23

In accordance with the provisions of 30-19.03 of the Code of Virginia, the staff of the Commission on Local Government offers the following analysis of legislation impacting local governments.

HB 1634: Comprehensive plan; strategies to address resilience. (Patron: Delegate David L. Bulova)

Bill Summary: Comprehensive plan; strategies to address resilience. Requires localities to consider strategies to address resilience in their comprehensive plans

Local Fiscal Impact: **Net Additional Expenditure:** X **Net Reduction of Revenues:**

Summary Analysis:

Number of Localities Responding: 6 Cities, 6 Counties, 6 Towns, 1 Other

Localities estimated a negative fiscal impact ranging from \$0 to \$77,000 over the biennium (including recurring and one-time expenditures).

Some localities reported that the bill would produce no fiscal impact, as their comprehensive plans already addressed resilience strategies. Other localities mentioned that similar analysis is performed in several other plans, including their Planning District Commission's Emergency Operations Plan, their respective Hazards Mitigation Plan, or other plans funded by different state agencies. Localities mentioned that they could repurpose that analysis to satisfy the provisions of the bill.

For those localities which did report a fiscal impact, the costs would stem from increases in the staff time needed to meet the requirements in the bill. A few localities also mentioned the need to hire additional consultants or contract services as a onetime operational cost.

Some localities also noted that the implementation of the bill's requirements would generate a significant fiscal impact. That cost is not included in these estimates.

As introduced, this bill is identical to SB 1187 (Lewis).

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Juris	Recurring Expense- Personnel		Recurring Expense - Operating		Recurring Expense - Capital		Recurring Expense - Other	
		FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24
City of Alexandria	City								
City of Danville	City								
City of Harrisonburg	City	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
City of Manassas	City								
City of Norfolk	City								
City of Richmond	City								
Augusta County	County								
Mecklenburg County	County								
Prince George County	County								
Rappahannock County	County								
Roanoke County	County								
Smyth County	County								
Northern Neck PDC	Other								
Town of Blacksburg	Town								
Town of Christiansburg	Town								
Town of Leesburg	Town								
Town of Luray	Town				\$25,000				
Town of Marion	Town								
Town of Scottsville	Town								

Net Increase in Expenditures: Itemized Estimates by Responding Localities

Locality	Nonrecurring Expense - Operating		Nonrecurring Expense - Capital		Nonrecurring Expense - Other		Penny Value of Increase on Real Estate Rate*	Total Increase in Expenses (Biennium Total)
	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24	FY23	FY24		
City of Alexandria								\$0
City of Danville								\$0
City of Harrisonburg	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
City of Manassas								\$0
City of Norfolk								\$0
City of Richmond								\$0
Augusta County						\$15,000		\$15,000
Mecklenburg County								\$0
Prince George County		\$25,000					0.007	\$25,000
Rappahannock County								\$0
Roanoke County								\$0
Smyth County								\$0
Northern Neck PDC								\$0
Town of Blacksburg								\$0
Town of Christiansburg								\$0
Town of Leesburg	\$30,000	\$45,000			\$1,000	\$1,000	0	\$77,000
Town of Luray								\$0
Town of Marion								\$25,000
Town of Scottsville	\$500						0.007	\$500

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
City of Alexandria	The City supports resilience and certainly outlines strategies to address resilience at this time. As currently written, the City's master plan already addresses resilience and thus there is no anticipated fiscal impact at this time. Depending on how it is worded, the City could have to go back to some plans which would require additional work and time at a currently unquantifiable cost. If the City were required to update plans, the amendments would go to City Council, which would be an updated ordinance.
City of Danville	Side note: In our current comprehensive plan update, it will include a resilience plan in our update. It will be an addendum to the Plan itself. Resilience plans are being funded by DCR. This could also add to the timeline of the update depending on the nature of issues identified.
City of Harrisonburg	There would be additional costs to the City as a result of this legislation, but the additional cost is currently unknown. Costs would stem from paying a consultant to help the City update the City's Comprehensive Plan through research and the formulation of plans to include resilience. The costs could also come in the form of additional staff time that it would take to gather and compile the same information.
City of Manassas	
City of Norfolk	The City of Norfolk currently has resilience strategies in the comprehensive plan for the city.
City of Richmond	Assuming that the additional elements will only need to be included upon adoption of a new, or substantial revision to, the existing adopted comprehensive plan.
Augusta County	The added language for the bill could be translated several ways depending on what department reads it. The additional information in the Comp Plan could be related to Gov Northam's EO 24 or the state's resilience plans (which seem to be focused more towards coastal resilience). If the latter, there have been some focused grants that have a "resilience plan" as a requirement for grant eligibility. We could add a resiliency section to the current regional All Hazards Mitigation Plan, but the Comp Plan may be where it would be required. We have received a quote for adding some sections to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), which is prepared by our Planning District Commission. This update could be useful for the Comp Plan requirements. The sections discussed were sections that the state suggested be added, but were then optional. The sections covered topics like citizen resilience, transportation and cyber security. The quote is the amount reflected above.
Mecklenburg County	Any additional requirements would be incorporated into the overall cost of work related to the plan revision at the next time the plan was due for reconsideration.

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Prince George County	This is an estimate of the increased consulting service fees required to incorporate resilience into preparation of our updated strategic plan.
Rappahannock County	This will lead to essentially a zero net cost as similar work is typically developed as part of a locality's Emergency Operations Plan, which document has a 4 year update cycle as opposed to the 5-year review cycle for a comprehensive plan.
Roanoke County	This may require additional personnel time and costs based on the requirements of the transportation plans. The County already dedicates time and effort into our transportation efforts (Six Year Plans with VDOT, etc).
Smyth County	Since we have to update the comprehensive plan on a regular basis, I believe adding one additional section to the plan will not have a significant enough effect to the total cost of the update. It may require some additional time and effort but in my opinion, it will be negligible.
Northern Neck PDC	Planning District Commissions do not prepare Comprehensive Plans; however, PDCs use localities' Comp Plans in grant proposals, and list them as a resource on our website. Incorporating resiliency into economic development plans (EDA requirement) is standard practice for Economic Development Districts. Deferring to the positions of localities, but this measure might be a cost savings in combining resiliency planning and comp planning instead of preparing separate documents. Greater incorporation of resiliency planning in local comp plans seems to be a sensible, timely measure without detrimental fiscal economic impact to localities.
Town of Blacksburg	If passed, this change would not require any additional funding, as we have other existing plans (NRV Hazard Mitigation Plan, TOB Climate Vulnerability Assessment, etc.) referenced in the Town Comprehensive Plan.
Town of Christiansburg	We are beginning the update to our Comprehensive Plan now and will include strategies to address resiliency with the update (so I do not anticipate any additional costs).

Locality	Expenditure Narrative by Responding Localities
Town of Leesburg	The Town of Leesburg Comprehensive Plan does not contain strategies that specifically address preparation, response, and recovery from significant multi-hazard threats. Resiliency is partially addressed through strategies that call for protecting environmental resources (water supply, trees, steep slopes, etc), which are more likely to withstand flooding, wind events, or other significant weather hazards if they remain protected and in their natural state. Furthermore, The Town's Comprehensive Plan calls for diversification of the Town's energy portfolio, which will help increase resiliency if a single major power source is impacted by a hazard. However, to carry out the intent of HB 1634 consultant or in-house staff resources will be needed to assess existing conditions and critical facilities, engage the community, and draft specific Comprehensive Plan policies that address resiliency. It is estimated this effort will cost approximately \$77,000 over two fiscal years.
Town of Luray	The Comprehensive Plan can incorporate outside plans like a disaster recovery or resilience plan as a compendium document. If adopted the Town will need to retain specific consultants to provide guidance for this requirement.
Town of Marion	
Town of Scottsville	Resilience plans vary widely in their scope and complexity. Recently, coastal cities have researched and published large, separate resilience plans, often using grant funding. The bill does not require anything this complex. In our small-town case, most of the relevant resilience data is already contained in emergency management documents or regional hazard mitigation plans. Integrating and synthesizing resilience information only requires some staff work on summary and some work session time for the planning commission and town council. The \$500 cost figure represents staff time to draft appropriate comp. plan language excerpted from existing sources.

* Penny value is defined as the amount a locality would need to raise their real estate tax rate to cover the fiscal impacts of the bill, assuming no other changes to revenues or expenditures. It is represented in terms of dollars (e.g., 0.01 is a one cent increase in the real estate tax rate, etc.).