

Department of Planning and Budget

2023 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB2239

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:** Willett

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** Department of Health Professions; Virginia Healthcare Workforce Data Center.

5. **Summary:** Directs the Department of Health Professions (the Department), through its Virginia Healthcare Workforce Data Center, to make available to the public by request any existing data on health care providers by locality, including certification type and demographic information for each provider. The bill requires that if the Department is unable to provide such information upon request, the Department must provide an explanation to the requestor as to why the information cannot be provided.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8.

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The total fiscal impact the provisions of this legislation would have on the Department of Health Professions cannot be determined. It is unknown how many requests from the public the Virginia Healthcare Workforce Data Center (HWDC) would receive, however, if there is significant demand than the HWDC would need additional resources.

The HWDC works to improve the data collection and measurement of Virginia's healthcare workforce through regular assessment of workforce supply and demand issues among the over 62 professions and the over 500,000 practitioners licensed in Virginia. DHP healthcare workforce data is provided online to ensure accessibility of the findings among healthcare decision makers, hospital systems, academic institutions and constituents statewide. As such, the HDWC collects a large amount of data and to reduce such data down to the aggregate level that every request could entail would be complex and time consuming. HWDC already provides frequently requested aggregate data on its website and often redirects most requesters to this resource. Currently, about two-thirds of the aggregate data requests that HWDC receives are satisfied by making the requester aware of the dashboards and the data available through them. About one-third of the requests received (at least two per month) need additional analysis in addition to what is available on the website. To address such requests, in addition to its day-to-day duties, requires time. Usually, the HWDC requires at

least a two-week period to address these unique aggregate data requests. These requests are often from state and private institutions and agencies working on healthcare workforce planning but, in few cases, they may come from individual researchers and graduate students who are working on research for health workforce planning purposes. The provisions of this legislation to provide data to any member of the public could result in a significant number of additional requests.

The HWDC currently has five staff members, which are a mix of economists, statisticians, and data scientists who have the necessary expertise to handle and analyze this dataset. Depending on the utilization rates for the services authorized by this legislation, DHP may require additional staff in this unit. These requests would need to be handled by individuals that have the knowledge and expertise needed to ensure confidentiality and privacy of the sensitive data that respondents provide, the statistical expertise to analyze the data, and the communication and data visualization skills needed to distill the results from the analysis in ways that are understandable by the different audiences that HWDC serve. Any new positions are projected to cost \$152,500 each (salary \$100,900, fringe benefits \$48,195, phone \$292, VITA \$2,940).

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Health Professions.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.