

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB494

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: Garrett

3. Committee: Appropriations

4. Title: Virginia Fire and EMS Safety Loan Fund.

5. Summary: Creates the Virginia Fire and EMS Safety Loan Fund, to be administered by the Virginia Resources Authority. Under the bill, money in the Fund would be used exclusively for the financing of purchases by local fire and EMS services of at least \$50,000 (i) for capital projects to construct or modernize facilities that house firefighting equipment or vehicles or ambulance or rescue vehicles; (ii) of firefighting apparatus, ambulances, or rescue vehicles; and (iii) of protective, accessory, or communication equipment for firefighting or EMS services. The bill also establishes the Joint Fire and EMS Loan Board, which shall be responsible for directing the distribution of loans from the Fund, with an emphasis on localities in need of financing assistance to meet minimum standards.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, to capitalize the Fund. See Item 8.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary – amounts in the table below reflect the estimated fiscal impact of the Joint Fire and EMS Loan Board established by the bill. See Item 8 for additional information.

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2024	\$0	N/A
2025	\$4,000	Fire Programs Fund
2026	\$4,000	Fire Programs Fund
2027	\$4,000	Fire Programs Fund
2028	\$4,000	Fire Programs Fund
2029	\$4,000	Fire Programs Fund
2030	\$4,000	Fire Programs Fund

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill creates the Virginia Fire and EMS Safety Loan Fund. Creating the Fund does not generate a fiscal impact, however, a budget amendment would be required to appropriate dollars to the Fund to make it operational. The Virginia Resources Authority (VRA) is a political subdivision and does not have access to the state accounting system. It is anticipated that any appropriation provided for this Fund will require a pass-through

agreement between VRA and the appropriate state agency, such as the Department of Fire Programs (DFP). Budget language authorizing the transfer of funding to VRA will be required.

VRA does not anticipate a fiscal impact to its operations to execute the provisions of the bill.

The bill establishes a six-member Joint Fire and EMS Loan Board, the expenses of which shall be paid by the Fire Programs Fund. DFP estimates approximately \$335 per member for per diem and travel expenses and assumes the Board would meet twice per year. Under these assumptions, expenses for the Board would be approximately \$4,000 per year. Actual costs of the Board will depend on the actual frequency of meetings and the allowable travel costs of the members appointed to the Board.

- 9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Virginia Fire Services Board, Department of Fire Programs, State Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board, Department of Health, Virginia Resources Authority

- 10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

- 11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: January 18, 2024
File: HB494.docx