

## Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB515

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

**2. Patron:** Hope

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** Discharge of individuals from state hospitals or training centers.

**5. Summary:** Directs the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to develop and implement a pilot program relating to the discharge of individuals at one state hospital. The bill requires the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly on its findings and recommendations no later than November 1, 2025.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See section 8 below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The legislation creates a pilot program at one facility operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services to allow the facility director to discharge an individual over the objection of the Community Services Board or guardian. While the legislation does not specify which facility, DBHDS believes they would implement this pilot at Catawba Hospital. While the legislation could increase the workload on Catawba Hospital staff for developing discharge plans for individuals to be discharged from the facility resulting from this legislation is expected to be only a small portion of the total number of individuals discharged from the facility. Any costs associated with discharge planning for these individuals can be absorbed by existing staff and may be offset by possible cost avoidance from a reduction in length of stay for individuals on the Extraordinary Barriers List.

The legislation specifies that the costs of the home or trial visit would be the responsibility of the guardian or the local social services department. This language is identical to existing language in § 37.2-837 related to currently allowable home and trial visits. While a cost to local departments of social services or other state agencies is indeterminate, possible costs could be to the supplemental nutritional assistance program, the auxiliary grant program, or Medicaid for medical services. This legislation does not, however, increase eligibility for these programs, so any costs for these services are for individuals who would be otherwise eligible regardless of the legislation.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, Department of Social Services.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.