

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

**1. Bill Number:** SB179

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:** Favola

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses

**4. Title:** State hospitals; discharge planning.

**5. Summary:** Provides that (i) when an individual is to be discharged from Central State Hospital, Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute, or Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute 30 days or less after admission, the state hospital shall be responsible for the individual's discharge planning and (ii) when an individual is to be discharged from a state hospital more than 30 days after admission, the appropriate community services board or behavioral health authority shall be responsible for the individual's discharge planning. Under current law, community services boards and behavioral health authorities provide discharge planning for all individuals discharged from state hospitals, regardless of the duration of their stay. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2025.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** See 8 Below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The facilities identified in the substitute legislation would be required to develop discharge plans, refer individuals to those services, and assure transportation from the facility for those who are in the facility 30 days or less. For this level of care needed, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services indicates that at a minimum, identified facilities would need social workers with a bachelor's degree level to deliver the service required to develop a discharge plan.

Item 317, Chapter 1, 2023 Acts of Assembly, Special Session I, (Chapter 1) includes earmarked funding for the implementation of seven-day discharge services at Central State Hospital and Southern Virginia Mental Health Institute. The funds have been used at these facilities to hire social workers for the purpose of discharge planning, which would provide for the requirements of this legislation at two of the identified facilities.

For individuals receiving services at Southwestern Virginia Mental Health Institute (SWVMHI), it is assumed that the facility would need to hire two additional social workers to meet the requirements of this legislation. From January 2023 through November 2023, 367 individuals were discharged from SWVMHI with a length of stay of 30 days or less (data for December 2023 is not yet available), or approximately 34 per month. The appropriate case load for discharge planning is approximately 20 individuals per every social worker. The

annual cost of each social worker is \$106,558 (\$68,093 salary, \$33,465 fringe, \$5,000 non-personnel). However, DBHDS projects that the costs of these positions can be covered with existing resources and anticipated increased nongeneral fund revenue generation from other activities at the facility. There is sufficient cushion in the nongeneral fund appropriation that an amendment is not necessary.

Item 312 of Chapter 1 includes \$1.15 million annually for costs of providing transportation for individuals being discharged from state facilities. DBHDS established this program in FY 2023 at three facilities and has expanded operation to six facilities in FY 2024, now covering all facilities except for Central State Hospital, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital, and Eastern State Hospital. Once fully implemented, the program will support the remaining facilities within the existing appropriation for this service. For reference, in FY 2024, DBHDS has expended approximately \$250,000 of the available appropriation.

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

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

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is a companion to HB314.