

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB392

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Pekarsky

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Hospitals; emergency departments; licensed physicians.

5. **Summary:** Requires any hospital with an emergency department to have at least one licensed physician on duty and physically present at all times. Current law requires such hospitals to have a licensed physician on call, though not necessarily physically present on the premises, at all times. The provisions of this legislation shall become effective on January 1, 2025.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The total impact the provisions of this legislation would have on the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) cannot be determined. VDH does not have readily available data to estimate the potential volume of complaints that may be generated from this legislative change and cannot estimate whether it can be absorbed with existing resources. If the provisions of the bill lead to an appreciable increase in complaints against hospitals, VDH may need additional Health Care Compliance Specialists II to handle complaint intake and investigation; this would increase personnel, travel, and lodging costs for the agency. As such, the fiscal impact is indeterminate. The costs to amend regulations is estimated to be less than \$5,000, which can be absorbed with existing resources.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Virginia Department of Health.

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.