

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB411

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

2. Patron: Boysko

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Animal testing facilities; public notification.

5. Summary: Requires any animal testing facility, contract testing facility, or manufacturer that uses an animal test method to annually make publicly available certain information relating to animal testing by displaying a link to access such information on the home page or landing page of any such facility's or manufacturer's website. The bill also provides that when documents generated from internal reviews pertain to violations of federal animal welfare regulations and guidelines and are the subject of a request for information pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, an animal testing facility shall not charge more than \$25 to produce such documents.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, Items 151, 155, 167, 183, 194, and 211

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services anticipates that any increased administrative responsibilities could be absorbed within current resources.

Public institutions of higher education cite a range of costs to meet the requirements of this bill related to counting, identifying, grouping, and reporting the designated animals. Several institutions indicate that they currently do not have systems or software in place to track the information required by this bill nor the current personnel capacity to initiate or maintain these requirements. Institutions report a need to reprogram existing systems or procure additional software, and a need to hire at least one to multiple full-time employee(s) to manage new reporting duties.

The below table summarizes estimates provided by public institutions of higher education. It is unclear at this time what portion of these amounts are one-time or ongoing costs.

Institution	Estimated Fiscal Impact
George Mason University	\$200,000
James Madison University	\$250,000
Old Dominion University (anticipates Eastern Virginia Medical School merger)	\$708,500
University of Virginia	\$374,000
Virginia Commonwealth University	\$557,000
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	\$1,840,000

Norfolk State University (NSU) faculty researchers currently engaged in research involving animals do so through partnering arrangements. Any fiscal impact to NSU likely is minimal and can be absorbed.

Christopher Newport University indicated an indeterminate fiscal impact.

The fiscal impact to other public institutions of higher education is indeterminate at this time.

Of note, the above estimates do not include costs associated with Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. Multiple institutions indicate that the requirement to respond to FOIA requests with a \$25 maximum charge is anticipated to impose a substantial fiscal impact as they receive these requests frequently and require significant staff time and resources in excess of this \$25 cap. These costs are indeterminate at this time.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Public institutions of higher education

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB580.