

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB962

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

2. Patron: LaRock

3. Committee: Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. Title: Vaccines; adverse events; reporting.

5. Summary: Requires the Department of Health (the Department) to establish a process for receiving reports of adverse events, defined in the bill as adverse reactions to the administration of a vaccine, including any side effects and other reactions, provided by health care providers and members of the public and make information regarding reported adverse events available to the public on a website maintained by the Department. The bill also requires every health care provider who reports an adverse event to the Vaccine Adverse Event Report System administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to report such adverse event to the Department.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: Yes, item 292 program 40502.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:

7a. Expenditure Impact:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2023	\$628,005	2	01000
2024	\$342,805	2	01000
2025	\$342,805	2	01000
2026	\$342,805	2	01000
2027	\$342,805	2	01000
2028	\$342,805	2	01000
2029	\$342,805	2	01000

8. Fiscal Implications: The provisions of this legislation would have a fiscal impact on the Virginia Department of Health. The bill requires that VDH shall establish a process to receive reports of adverse events, display such information on its website, and ensure that such information is made available in a manner that is consistent with state or federal laws regarding health information privacy.

VDH asserts that the process by which they shall receive and display adverse event information on their website will require the development of an online portal. Such portal

will have restricted access to only registered providers or members of the general public with adverse events to report so that they can login and submit vaccine adverse reaction records information. The public facing website will be able to display non identifiable and aggregate information as well. VDH has estimated that there will be \$356,500 in one-time development costs in FY23 and ongoing maintenance costs of \$71,300 starting in FY24 and beyond.

Although the volume of reports that will be submitted through this portal cannot be determined; there is currently a high volume of reports sent to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). According to the public report VAERS has made available, there were approximately than 84,454 reports made for Virginia in 2021. The provisions of the bill require VDH to make information regarding reported adverse events available to the public on its website. In order to ensure the data is accurate and useable, VDH would need to hire a Vaccine Epidemiologist who would be responsible for analyzing and understanding the data reported. This position may also assist with answering questions from providers and the general public about reporting and the data presented publicly if necessary. It is estimated that this position would have a salary of \$85,000 with fringe benefits and VITA/telecommunication expenses of \$47,623. The total cost for this position is \$132,623 annually.

The bill provides that, “such information [regarding reported adverse events] shall be made available in a manner that is consistent with state or federal laws regarding health information privacy.” While the above system development and maintenance costs cover the costs to create a system to receive these reports, they do not cover the costs to make the information public in a manner that doesn't conflict with confidentiality laws. VDH asserts that this will require a position with a salary of \$90,000 with fringe benefits and VITA/telecommunication expenses of \$48,882. The total cost for this position is \$138,882 annually. This information will be posted for public use in something like a tableau dashboard, which VDH currently has a software license for. This position would be assigned to that dashboard to ensure that confidentiality laws are not violated and to keep up with the daily maintenance of that dashboard and ensure it is always properly functioning.

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.