

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB326

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

2. **Patron:** Glass

3. **Committee:** General Laws

4. **Title:** Social Work Licensure Compact.

5. **Summary:** Authorizes Virginia to become a signatory to the Social Work Licensure Compact. The Compact allows social workers who have or are eligible for an active, unencumbered license in the compact member state where they reside to apply for a multistate license. After verifying eligibility, the social worker is granted a multistate license that authorizes practice in all other compact member states. The Compact takes effect when it is enacted by a seventh member state.

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

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

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health Professions would incur costs for participation in a Social Work Licensure Compact, however, there is insufficient information available to determine the impact. The agency indicates that there will be costs incurred for membership and for travel by staff and board members. According to the Department of Health Professions, the Social Work Licensure Compact has not provided its fee structure to member states and therefore any fiscal impact cannot be determined at this time for participation in the compact.

Additionally, because this compact requires criminal background checks (CBC), there will be an impact to the Virginia State Police (VSP). The impact to DHP to implement background checks is minimal, as the Department of Health Professions has a criminal background check unit originally put in place for the Nurse Licensure Compact. That unit handles CBC for all other compacts that fall under the agency and it will not require additional personnel. It cannot be determined how many additional background checks would be required as a result of this legislation. Currently, one fingerprint technician can process 10,000 checks per year. Therefore, the potential increase can be handled within existing resources. However, if the total number of background checks for all passed legislation exceeds 10,000 then additional resources may be necessary.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The Department of Health Professions and the Virginia State Police.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB239, introduced by Senator Hashmi, is a companion bill.