

Department of Planning and Budget 2021 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB1445H1

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

2. **Patron:** Dunnavant

3. **Committee:** Health, Welfare and Institutions

4. **Title:** COVID-19; vaccine administration; emergency.

5. **Summary:** Facilitates the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. The bill requires the Department of Health (the Department) to establish a program to enable eligible health care providers to volunteer to administer the COVID-19 vaccine to residents of the Commonwealth during a state of emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic and sets out which health care providers are eligible to volunteer. The bill also requires the Department to establish a process on its website whereby medical care facilities, hospitals, hospital systems, corporations, businesses, pharmacies, public and private institutions of higher education, and any other professional or community entities operating in the Commonwealth may register such entity's facilities as sites that the Commissioner of Health and the Department may jointly approve as sites where administration of the COVID-19 vaccine may occur. The bill permits a public institution of higher education or a private institution of higher education in the Commonwealth to volunteer to provide assistance to the Department and local health departments for data processing, analytics, and program development related to the COVID-19 vaccine through the use of its employees, students, technology, and facilities. The bill has an emergency enactment clause.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No, the provisions of the bill can be met using existing federal COVID-19 disaster response funding.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:**

7a. **Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2021	\$119,486	2	10130
2022	\$432,428	2	10130
2023			
2024			
2025			
2026			
2027			

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill requires that during a state of emergency declared by the Governor related to the COVID-19 pandemic, that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

establish a program to allow eligible volunteers to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. VDH shall maintain a list of volunteer vaccinators, provide a link on the VDH website to streamline volunteer enrollment and provide verification of credentials as outlined in the bill. The bill also requires VDH to develop a system on its website that allows medical facilities, hospitals, hospital systems, corporations, businesses, pharmacies, public and private institutions of higher education and any other professional or community entities operating in Virginia to register such a facility to serve as a vaccine administration site.

While SiteVision, Inc., is VITA’s statewide Citizen Facing Website and Application services contractor and is responsible for managing the Virginia Volunteer Health System (VVHS), it was recommended that VVHS not be utilized for a temporary vaccinator registry. After outlining the scope of the bill’s requirements and based on a discussion of requirements and existing infrastructure, it determined that a basic application could be created and hosted similar to existing VDH applications. It will take approximately 3 weeks to implement the program and complete system changes, however, the procurement process may delay implementation.

Healthcare Providers that do not desire to join the Virginia Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program, will be managed by the COVID-19 Emergency Vaccination Volunteer program established by this bill. The program will be managed directly by the VDH Office of Emergency Preparedness and will utilize a new “COVID-19 Emergency Volunteer Vaccinator Registration Site” for credential verification and training documentation.

VDH will continue to provide and track training for eligible volunteer vaccinators in the MRC and the COVID-19 Vaccination Volunteers program related to the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine, including training on the intramuscular injection of the COVID-19 vaccine and contraindications and side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine. State and local MRC unit coordinators will manage training for MRC volunteers and the contractor will manage the COVID-19 Emergency Vaccination Volunteers training.

A hospital operating a community vaccination clinic may request a list of “COVID-19 Emergency Volunteer Vaccinators” by submitting a request to the Virginia Department of Health. The contractors, EM Partners, will be responsible for managing all volunteer requests for healthcare facilities.

In order to meet the provisions of the bill, VDH will hire two full-time emergency management contractor, with experience in emergency volunteer management, to support credentialing of existing and newly eligible vaccinators and on contractor manage the COVID-19 Emergency Volunteer Vaccinator Program. This will require 6,240 hours of work over the next 11 months and COV access. Since the bill contains an emergency enactment clause there are costs associated with FY21. However, VDH will use existing federal COVID-19 disaster response funding to cover all costs associated with the bill. A breakdown of FY21 and FY22 costs is provided in the table below.

Item	Cost in FY21	Cost in FY22	Positions
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Emergency Management Contractor	\$59,686	\$298,428	2
Program Management Contractor	\$24,800	\$124,000	0
Registration system (web-based application) development and hosting	\$35,000	\$10,000	0
Totals	\$119,486	\$432,428	2

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

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB2333, as introduced by Delegate Bagby.