

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB192

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

2. **Patron:** Mason

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Local health director; qualifications.

5. **Summary:** Amends the qualification requirements for local health directors to permit local health directors to possess a master's or doctoral degree in the area of public health and have at least three years of professional experience in a full-time position in either a public health agency or public health-related position, or be otherwise qualified for the position as determined by the Commissioner of Health, as an alternative to the current requirement that local health directors be physicians licensed to practice medicine in the Commonwealth. The bill states that if a local health director is not a physician licensed to practice medicine and there is no licensed physician on staff, the local health director shall enter into a consulting agreement with a licensed physician to execute prescribing duties, consult on clinical matters, and perform all other duties as requested.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** See item 8.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate, see item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The total impact that this bill, as amended, would have on the Commonwealth cannot be determined. Currently, as required by the code, all local health directors are licensed physicians and in some health districts the only licensed physician on staff. The bill states that if a local health director is not a physician licensed to practice medicine and there is no licensed physician on staff, the local health director shall enter into a consulting agreement with a licensed physician to execute prescribing duties, consult on clinical matters, and perform all other duties as requested.” It cannot be determined if a local health department would have a local health director that is not a licensed physician in the future and would need to contract for services.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Virginia Department of Health and all local health departments.

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.

