

Department of Planning and Budget 2024 Session Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** SB133

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

2. **Patron:** Head

3. **Committee:** Education and Health

4. **Title:** Physician assistants; practice agreement exemption.

5. **Summary:** Allows physician assistants employed by a hospital or employed in certain facilities operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services or in federally qualified health centers designated by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to practice without a separate practice agreement if the credentialing and privileging requirements of the applicable facility include a practice arrangement, as described in the bill.

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

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** No fiscal impact.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation would allow physician assistants employed in a state facility operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to practice without a separate practice agreement, provided that the credentialing and privileging requirements of the facility include a practice arrangement that incorporates the components of a practice agreement set forth in subsection C of § 54.1-2951.1 and the patient care team requirements of § 54.1-2952.

DBHDS currently employs three classified employees and four wage employees in the physician assistant role across all 12 state facilities. Nurse Practitioners are more broadly used across facilities to provide medical care in collaboration with a physician. This legislation may increase the ability of facilities to recruit physician assistants and reduce reliance on contracted medical services, however, DBHDS has reported that based on previous recruitment efforts, there are a limited number of physician assistants with training and competency for psychiatric care that have been open to employment at state facilities, therefore, any cost avoidance is expected to be minimal.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services.

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

11. **Other Comments:** None.