



Virginia Department of Planning and Budget **Economic Impact Analysis**

18 VAC 85-110 Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Acupuncturists
Department of Health Professions
Town Hall Action/Stage: 6983 / 11135 Fast-Track
August 18, 2026

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia (Code) and Executive Order 19. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of the potential economic impacts as of the date of this analysis.¹

Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation

The Board of Medicine (Board) proposes to update references in *Regulations Governing the Practice of Licensed Acupuncturists* to reflect a change in the name of the national certifying body for acupuncturists.

Background

The national certifying body for acupuncturists, the National Certification Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine (NCCAOM), is referenced in several sections of the regulation. NCCAOM has changed its name to the National Certification Board for Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine (NCBAHM). Consequently, the Board proposes to amend references to NCCAOM to NCBAHM.

Estimated Benefits and Costs

The proposed amendments do not affect requirements, but may be beneficial in that readers of the regulation may more easily find the national certifying body for acupuncturists by having the current name referenced in the regulation.

¹ See Code § 2.2-4007.04 (A).

Businesses and Other Entities Affected

The proposed amendments may affect readers of the regulation.

The Code requires DPB to assess whether an adverse impact may result from the proposed regulation.² An adverse impact is indicated if there is any increase in net cost or reduction in net benefit for any entity, even if the benefits exceed the costs for all entities combined.³ The proposal neither increases net costs nor reduces net benefits for any entity. Thus, no adverse impact is indicated.

Small Businesses⁴ Affected:⁵

The proposed amendments do not adversely affect small businesses.

Localities⁶ Affected⁷

The proposed amendments neither disproportionately affect any particular locality nor affect costs for local governments.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments do not affect total employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

The proposed amendments affect neither the use and value of private property nor real estate development costs.

² See Code § 2.2-4007.04 (D).

³ Statute does not define “adverse impact,” state whether only Virginia entities should be considered, nor indicate whether an adverse impact results from regulatory requirements mandated by legislation. As a result, DPB has adopted a definition of adverse impact that assesses changes in net costs and benefits for each affected Virginia entity that directly results from discretionary changes to the regulation.

⁴ Pursuant to § 2.2-4007.04 of the Code of Virginia, small business is defined as “a business entity, including its affiliates, that (i) is independently owned and operated and (ii) employs fewer than 500 full-time employees or has gross annual sales of less than \$6 million.”

⁵ See Code § 2.2-4007.04 (A.2). and Code § 2.2-4007.1 (C).

⁶ “Locality” can refer to either local governments or the locations in the Commonwealth where the activities relevant to the regulatory change are most likely to occur.

⁷ Code § 2.2-4007.04 defines “particularly affected” as bearing disproportionate material impact.