



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

6 VAC 20-60 Rules Relating to Compulsory Minimum Training Standards for Dispatchers
Department of Criminal Justice Services
Town Hall Action/Stage: 6346 / 10615 Proposed
June 9, 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 Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) proposes to 1) replace an incorrect document incorporated by reference (DIBR) with the correct version, 2) align the regulation with a legislative mandate, and 3) specify the training hours for certain topics and completion time for initial training.

Background

This regulation establishes initial training standards for dispatchers who are hired by local or state government agencies either full-time or part-time, whose duties include the dispatching of law-enforcement personnel.

One of the proposed changes in this action would replace an incorrect DIBR with the correct version. Currently, this regulation includes a DIBR titled *Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Field Training and On the Job Training Performance Outcomes, published September 2012, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (Revised January 2018)*. However, according to DCJS, this DIBR must have been inadvertently incorporated because it does not address the initial training for dispatchers. DCJS proposes to replace it with

¹ See Code § 2.2-4007.04 (A).

the correct document titled *Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Compulsory Minimum Training Standards and Field Training, Performance Outcomes for Public Safety Telecommunicators, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (Draft Dated December 5, 2024)*. According to DCJS, new dispatchers have been trained according to the correct standards and replacing the DIBR would not affect current practices.

Another proposed change would address the legislatively mandated training on Alzheimer's and dementia for dispatchers. Chapter 698 of the 2024 Acts of Assembly,² mandated that certain agencies in the Commonwealth develop curricula and provide training related to Alzheimer's and dementia; this would apply to dispatchers employed by or in any local or state government agency including firefighters and emergency medical services personnel when they dispatch law enforcement officers. DCJS proposes to add the requirements regarding the mandated training via the new DIBR. While the DIBR includes the new training, DCJS states that it would not increase the total training hours as the training academies would be able to cover the new topic within the current duration of the training. Additionally, DCJS believes the training academies are already complying with the required training on Alzheimer's and dementia and does not expect any impact on them when this regulation becomes effective.

Finally, DCJS proposes to specify in the regulatory text that dispatcher training must include a minimum of 40 hours on professionalism, legal, communication, and wellness topics; that the field training must be minimum of 160 hours; and that the required minimum training must be completed within 18 months after initial employment rather than the current standard of 24 months. DCJS believes that the number of hours required on different elements of the training curriculum should be about the same followed in current practices, and that this change would not increase or decrease the overall duration of the training. Similarly, DCJS believes most if not all trainees complete their training within the proposed 18 months.

Estimated Benefits and Costs

According to DCJS, none of the proposed changes are substantive and none of them would have any impact on the practices currently followed by training academies or trainees. Thus, no significant economic impact is expected other than improving the clarity of the requirements.

² <https://legacylis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?241+ful+CHAP0698>

Businesses and Other Entities Affected

Currently, there are 39 Criminal Justice Training Academies and 3,961 dispatchers in the Commonwealth. No regulated entity appears to be disproportionately affected.

The Code requires DPB to assess whether an adverse impact may result from the proposed regulation.³ 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.⁴ As noted above, the proposal mainly aligns the regulation with current practices and the Code of Virginia. Thus, no adverse impact is indicated.

Small Businesses⁵ Affected:⁶

The proposed amendments do not appear to adversely affect small businesses.

Localities⁷ Affected⁸

The proposed amendments do not appear to introduce costs for local governments nor disproportionately affect particular localities.

Projected Impact on Employment

The proposed amendments do not appear to affect total employment.

Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property

No impact on the use and value of private property nor on real estate development costs is expected.

³ See Code § 2.2-4007.04 (D).

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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.”

⁶ See Code § 2.2-4007.04 (A.2). and Code § 2.2-4007.1 (C).

⁷ “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.

⁸ Code § 2.2-4007.04 defines “particularly affected” as bearing disproportionate material impact.