



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 61: Local Communicable Disease Programs/Funds.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	March 26, 2021
Introduced by:	Reps. White, Potts, Lambeth	Prepared by:	Theresa Matula
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H61-CSSHa-12		Legislative Analyst

OVERVIEW: House Bill 61 would appropriate thirty-six million (\$36,000,000) in recurring funds to local health departments in each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to address communicable and emerging infectious diseases. Eighteen million (\$18,000,000) is distributed equally to the local health departments based on the number of counties served and the remaining eighteen million (\$18,000,000) is distributed to the local health departments based on county population. The PCS directs that the funds be distributed to the local health departments by September 1 and requires regular reports to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on these funds.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS for HB 61 would appropriate additional State funds to local health departments to address increased demands associated with communicable and emerging infectious disease.

Section 1.2 would appropriate recurring funds each fiscal year in the amount of \$36,000,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, for the 2021-22 fiscal year and for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The bill requires the funds be distributed directly to local health departments and requires the distribution to begin no later than September 1 of each fiscal year. Additional criteria are outlined below.

- Of the funds appropriated each year of the fiscal biennium, the Division of Public Health must divide \$18,000,000 equally among the local health departments based on the number of counties served by each local health department.
- The remaining \$18,000,000 appropriated each year of the fiscal biennium must be distributed by the Division of Public Health to the local health departments based on the percentage of the State population served by the local health department.
- The money must supplement and not supplant existing funds used to expand local infrastructure for activities associated with surveillance, detection, control, and prevention of communicable

Section 1.2 would require reports from the Division of Public Health to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before the following dates: November 1, 2021, February 1, 2022, November 1, 2022, February 1, 2023. Each report shall include the elements below:

- (1) The amount of funding that each county received.
- (2) An explanation if the sum of the funding received by all counties is not equivalent to the total funds appropriated each year.

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House PCS 61

Page 2

- (3) Information on how the local health departments plan to use and subsequently did use these funds to address surveillance, detection, control, and prevention of communicable diseases.
- (4) Consistent with the supplement and not supplant intent of the bill, the report must delineate funds other than those distributed in accordance with this bill that were received by each county to address surveillance, detection, control, and prevention of communicable diseases.
- (5) Additional information requested by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021