

## Budget amendments and legislation supported by the Behavioral Health Commission 2026 Session

### BUDGET AMENDMENTS

| Recommendation / option                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Original Patrons                              | Item         | Final Budget |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Implementation and effectiveness of Marcus Alert program</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                               |              |              |
| Provide \$3.6 million the first year and \$7.8 million the second year to fund the implementation of Marcus Alert for the remaining 13 CSBs that have not yet begun their implementation.<br>(Recommendation 4)                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Senate:</b> Deeds<br><b>House:</b> Willett | Item 301.JJ. | ✓            |
| Provide \$150,000 each year and one position for a Marcus Alert evaluation analyst at DBHDS to collect and analyze data and staff the Marcus Alert evaluation task force, pursuant to House Bill 225 of the 2026 General Assembly.<br>(Recommendation 6)                                                                                                               | <b>Senate:</b> Deeds<br><b>House:</b> Hope    | Not included | ✗            |
| Remove language that provides a fixed \$600,000 annual allocation per Marcus Alert program and allow for greater flexibility to reflect variation in community size, infrastructure, and implementation readiness.<br>(Option 1)                                                                                                                                       | <b>Senate:</b> Aird                           | Item 301.JJ. | ✓            |
| Provide \$1.4 million the first year to establish pilot programs that would enable regional mobile crisis response teams to be dispatched from 911 call centers to individuals in crisis. Identical to Option 1 from crisis study.<br>(Option 3)                                                                                                                       | <b>Senate:</b> Aird<br><b>House:</b> Willett  | Not included | ✗            |
| Provide \$125,000 each year to support a full-time statewide co-response coordinator to track, support, and develop best practices for co-response times. Co-response teams in Virginia vary widely and there is limited state guidance or oversight to ensure they maximize their potential for diverting individuals from the criminal justice system.<br>(Option 4) | <b>Senate:</b> Perry<br><b>House:</b> Watts   | Not included | ✗            |

| Recommendation / option                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Original Patrons                                          | Item            | Final Budget                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aligning crisis services and the civil commitment process</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                           |                 |                                                                                       |
| <p>Provide \$1.4 million the first year to establish pilot programs that would enable regional mobile crisis response teams to be dispatched from 911 call centers to individuals in crisis who are at high risk of coming under an ECO but who do not present an imminent public safety risk. Identical to Option 3 from Marcus Alert study.</p> <p>(Option 1)</p>                                                                     | <p><b>Senate:</b> Aird<br/><b>House:</b> Willett</p>      | Not Included    |    |
| <p>Create a workgroup led by the HHR Secretary to identify the regulatory, billing, or training changes required to enable regional mobile crisis response teams to be dispatched based on calls from third parties (e.g., family members, concerned citizens).</p> <p>(Option 2)</p>                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Senate:</b> Favola<br/><b>House:</b> McLaughlin</p> | Not Included    |    |
| <p>Direct DBHDS to identify strategies to incentivize CSBs to serve more individuals subject to an ECO or TDO in CRCs and CSUs that currently exist or that are under development/ consideration by modeling a “no-barrier” approach, and report to the Chairs of HAC, SFAC, and BHC by December 1, 2027.</p> <p>(Option 3)</p> <p><i>Final budget delays recommended reporting date from December 1, 2026 to December 1, 2027.</i></p> | <p><b>Senate:</b> Favola<br/><b>House:</b> Willett</p>    | Item 299.RR.    |    |
| <b>STEP-VA performance and evaluation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                           |                 |                                                                                       |
| <p>Appropriate STEP-VA funding as one amount rather than setting out appropriations for each STEP, beginning with the 2026-2028 Appropriation Act.</p> <p>(Recommendation 1)</p> <p><i>Final budget directs DBHDS to collect data on STEP-VA services and to assess whether flexibility may be necessary to reallocate funds among STEPs to match community needs.</i></p>                                                              | <p><b>Senate:</b> Deeds<br/><b>House:</b> Willett</p>     | Item 301.II.16. |  |
| <p>Convene a taskforce led by the HHR Secretary to develop a strategic vision for STEP-VA; and provide \$2.0 million the first year to hire a third-party vendor to conduct a comprehensive statewide and CSB-level needs assessments for services included in STEP-VA.</p> <p>(Option 1 &amp; 5)</p>                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Senate:</b> Aird<br/><b>House:</b> McClure</p>      | Not Included    |  |

| Recommendation / option                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Original Patrons                                         | Item         | Final Budget                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Direct DBHDS and DMAS to assist CSBs with conducting an analysis of their Medicaid revenue, including: enrollment in Medicaid compared to eligibility; MCO denial rates; time spent on billing, Medicaid losses experienced on STEP-VA services and collections from patients. DBHDS and DMAS should work with CSBs to create an action plan that identifies the changes needed to maximize Medicaid revenue, how changes will be implemented, and on what timeline; and report to the Chairs of HAC, SFAC, and BHC by November 1, 2027.</p> <p><i>Final budget requires DBHDS to include in the annual CSB performance contracts a requirement to maximize billing of Medicaid services provided to Medicaid-eligible clients and to report to DBHDS on total Medicaid revenue each year.</i></p> <p>(Option 3)</p> | <p><b>Senate:</b> Perry<br/><b>House:</b> McLaughlin</p> | Item 299.UU. |    |
| <p>Direct DMAS to identify the steps necessary to transition Medicaid reimbursement to a prospective payment system (PPS) designed to support services provided through the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) model; estimate the one-time and ongoing fiscal impact to the state and CSBs of shifting to the PPS model; and report to the Chairs of HAC and SFAC by December 1, 2026.</p> <p>(Option 4)</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <p><b>Senate:</b> Deeds<br/><b>House:</b> Hope</p>       | Item 295.SS. |    |
| Follow up to 2025 recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |              |                                                                                       |
| Autism Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                          |              |                                                                                       |
| Fund and staff a permanent Autism Commission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p><b>Senate:</b> Aird<br/><b>House:</b> Willett</p>     | Not Included |  |
| Member recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                          |              |                                                                                       |
| Local match of CSB state funding                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                          |              |                                                                                       |
| <p>Direct DBHDS to examine alternatives to the current 10 percent local match requirement on state funding for CSBs and to report to the Chairs of HAC and SFAC by November 1, 2027.</p> <p><i>Final budget delays recommended reporting date from November 1, 2026 to November 1, 2027.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Senate:</b> Favola                                    | Item 299.SS. |  |

## LEGISLATION

| Recommendation / option                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Patron       | Bill number            | Final status                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>BHC staff studies</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |              |                        |                                  |
| <b>Implementation and effectiveness of Marcus Alert program</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |                        |                                  |
| Require DBHDS to convene a Marcus Alert Evaluation Task Force to assist in determining the effectiveness of the Marcus Alert system.<br>(Recommendation 6)                                                                                                                                             | Sen. Deeds   | <a href="#">SB 514</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Del. Hope    | <a href="#">HB 225</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
| Provide that interjurisdictional law-enforcement agreements may allow for the development of co-response teams staffed by one or more law-enforcement agencies that respond to behavioral health-related calls in multiple jurisdictions.<br>(Option 2)                                                | Sen. Perry   | <a href="#">SB 317</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Del. Watts   | <a href="#">HB 248</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
| Clarify that an individual's information may continue to appear on a voluntary Marcus alert system external database that cannot be modified by a locality after such individual reaches 18 years of age.<br>(Option 5)                                                                                | Sen. Durant  | <a href="#">SB 602</a> | Failed to pass ✗                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Del. Watts   | <a href="#">HB 249</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
| Allows DBHDS, in collaboration with DCJS, to amend the written Marcus Alert plan created pursuant to relevant law provided that stakeholders are consulted during the development of any new language and a public comment period of no less than 30 days is held prior to finalization.<br>(Option 6) | Sen. Deeds   | <a href="#">SB 513</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Del. Willett | <a href="#">HB 453</a> | Acts of Assembly ✓               |
| <b>Follow up to 2025 recommendation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |                        |                                  |
| <b>Autism Commission</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |              |                        |                                  |
| Replace the Autism Advisory Council with a permanent, staffed Autism Commission.                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Sen. Aird    | <a href="#">SB 280</a> | Failed to pass from Conference ✗ |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Del. Cohen   | <a href="#">HB 231</a> | Failed to pass from Conference ✗ |

## OTHER

| Recommendation / option                                                                                                                                                                       | Final status                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>BHC staff studies</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Implementation and effectiveness of Marcus Alert program</b>                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                         |
| Amend § 9.1-193 (H) to change the Code reference from “clause (iv) of subdivision B 2 of § 37.2-311.1”, to “clause (vi) of subdivision B 2 of § 37.2-311.1” (typo).<br><br>(Recommendation 2) | Implemented through Code Commission  |