



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

February 2, 2026

Honorable Sandra Scott
State Representative
611-A Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 46 1271)

Dear Representative Scott:

The bill would require the Department of Public Health (DPH) to purchase a supply of vaccines recommended by the federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for children and seniors. The vaccines would be provided at no cost to providers who enroll with DPH to receive and administer the vaccines. Providers cannot charge patients for the vaccines or their administration. The bill also creates the Georgia Vaccine Purchase Trust Fund funded by annual assessments on health insurance companies, as well as federal grants, state appropriations, and donations. The Trust Fund would be used to purchase vaccines, administer Georgia Registry of Immunization Transactions and Services (GRITS), and operate the programs required by the bill. DPH must provide an annual report that describes program coverage, equity gaps, finances, assessment rates, and other items to specified legislative committees.

The Department of Public Health would incur costs for program administration and the purchase of the vaccines. A combination of federal grants and assessments on health insurance companies would cover the costs for children and insured seniors over age 60. We estimate the state cost to provide vaccines for the uninsured over age 60 population to be approximately \$24.3 million (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: DPH Costs of LC 46 1271

	Costs
Administration	
Staffing	\$1,780,588
Regular Operating	\$130,000
Information Technology ¹	\$183,790
Contract	\$45,000
Administration Total	\$2,139,378
Vaccine Purchases – Uninsured over Age 60 Only²	\$24.3 million

Note: Numbers may not total due to rounding

¹ Amount includes \$14,600 in one-time funds; estimate is \$60,000 after year one

² Georgia currently receives \$2.2 million annually in federal funding and appropriates approximately \$800,000 in state funds annually to vaccinate uninsured adults of any age. DPH indicated that a portion of this funding would be used to support implementation of this bill.

DPH would incur the following costs related to the bill.

- **Staffing** – DPH currently employs 13 Immunization Regional Coordinators, three Vaccine Program Associates, and two Vaccine Logistics Coordinators. Implementation would require DPH to double the amount of these existing positions. In addition, one new position would be required to support GRITS provider enrollment, which is currently completed by multiple staff members.
 - *Immunization regional coordinators* – The positions would work with enrolled providers, providing training and support and conducting compliance site visits.
 - *Vaccine program associates* – The positions would process vaccine orders, returns, and handle invoices.
 - *Vaccine logistics coordinators* – The positions would work with the program associates to track ordering, distribution to providers, and monitoring of recommended vaccines.
 - *GRITS enrollment coordinator* – The position would enroll additional providers in GRITS.
- **Regular Operating** – The 13 additional regional coordinators would have travel costs, estimated at \$10,000 per position.
- **Information Technology** – IT costs include \$100,000 in Georgia Enterprise Technology Services (GETS) costs for email, laptop charges and other associated charges by the Georgia Technology Authority. Enhancements and ongoing maintenance for the GRITS are estimated at \$74,600 in year one and \$60,000 thereafter. Finally, cell phones and hotspots are estimated at approximately \$9,200.
- **Contracts** – The estimate includes \$45,000 for a GRITS application support specialist employed under a temporary personnel contract.
- **Vaccine Purchases** – The amount of funding required to purchase vaccines is dependent on the number of enrolled providers and the percentage of eligible children and seniors who participate. DPH already provides children with free vaccinations through the federally funded Vaccines for Children program.¹ Providing vaccinations to those not covered by the existing program is estimated by DPH to cost approximately \$486 million annually, but this legislation would fund those costs through an assessment on the insurance companies that cover this population of children, not through state funds.

Many seniors are already insured, but state funds may be needed for those without insurance. Payments by Medicare or Medicaid and assessments on private insurers should result in the need for no additional state funds for those over 60 with insurance. However, approximately 85,000 Georgians over the age of 60 are uninsured. Based on information from DPH, we estimate that 40% of this population would participate at a cost of \$712 per person, totaling \$24.3 million annually. However, Georgia currently receives \$2.2 million annually in federal funding and appropriates approximately \$800,000 in state funds annually to vaccinate uninsured adults of any age.

The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance would be responsible for assisting with the annual assessment on health plans. The department would be able to meet its responsibilities with existing resources.

¹ According to DPH staff, the program pays for children with no insurance, as well as those with high deductibles or policies that do not cover a specific vaccine.

Finally, county health departments, while not a state entity, could lose fee revenue as a result of the bill. The departments are currently allowed to charge up to \$21.93 for vaccine administration. The amount is waived if patients state that they cannot pay, but the bill would automatically waive vaccine administration fees for patients with a household income below 250 percent of the federal poverty line. DPH does not have data to determine the amount of vaccine administration fee revenue currently collected from those in this income category.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Greg S. Griffin".

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Dunn".

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mt