



*Commonwealth of Virginia
Office of the Governor*

Executive Order

NUMBER ONE (2026)

DIRECTING THE GOVERNOR'S SECRETARIES AND AGENCIES ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH TO DETERMINE COST-SAVINGS FOR VIRGINIANS

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth, including, but not limited to, §§ 2.2-103 and 2.2-110 of the *Code of Virginia*, I hereby establish the procedure the Governor's Secretaries and executive branch agencies shall follow to prepare recommendations on reducing costs for Virginians.

Importance of the Initiative

Virginians—whether working parents, young people entering the workforce, or people close to retirement—are working longer hours but struggling to keep up with high prices. The ever-increasing cost of housing, healthcare, energy, childcare, groceries, and prescription drugs, among many other costs, is making it harder for Virginians to make ends meet. Affordability is critical to attracting and retaining the best workers, companies, and business leaders.

Making Virginia more affordable requires immediate scrutiny by all Secretaries and executive branch agencies of all governmental actions that affect the cost of living in Virginia.

Directive

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth under Article V of the Constitution of Virginia and the laws of the Commonwealth, I hereby direct the following actions.

1. The Governor's Secretaries shall prepare a report to be delivered to the Office of the Governor within 90 days that identifies the Secretary's recommendations for changes that may be readily implemented across their Departments and agencies that will reduce costs for Virginians. As part of preparing their report, each Secretary shall:

- a. holistically review the activities of their respective Secretariats to identify any actions, policies, or other changes that may readily reduce costs for Virginians, including evaluating the impact of all actions enumerated in the *Code of Virginia* for the relevant Secretariat (§ 2.2-200 through § 2.2-233.1); reports, guidance, recommendations, or other documentation published by commissions, strike forces, working groups, task forces, or other similar advisors over the past four years; and the impact and cost of cross-agency collaboration efforts.
- b. identify any pending legislative proposals that if enacted would readily reduce costs for Virginians.

2. All executive branch agencies shall prepare a report to be delivered to the Office of the Governor within 90 days that identifies the agency's recommendations for changes that it may readily implement that will reduce costs for Virginians. As part of preparing its report, each executive branch agency shall:

- a. review all regulations, guidance, policies, procedures, and any other formal or informal agency action that has been taken by the agency and identify any such action that, if modified, would readily reduce costs for Virginians without hindering access to or delivery of services; and
- b. identify new regulations, guidance, policies, procedures, and any other formal or informal agency action that could be taken by the agency to readily reduce costs for Virginians.

3. All reports shall address and specifically enumerate cost reductions for the following areas, where relevant to the agency: (1) housing; (2) healthcare; (3) energy; (4) education; (5) childcare; and (6) living expenses (e.g., groceries). Reports shall not be limited to these enumerated areas where other costs to Virginians may be reduced.

Effective Date of the Executive Order

This Executive Order shall become effective upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until amended or rescinded by further executive order.

Given under my hand and under the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia this 17th day of January 2026.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Abigail D. Spanberger".

Abigail D. Spanberger, Governor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer B. Moon".

Jennifer B. Moon, Secretary of the Commonwealth