SUMMARY: House Bill 2033, Printer’s Number 2530, establishes the freestanding COVID-19 Testing Act. This legislation is effective immediately upon enactment.

ANALYSIS: HB 2033 extends the requirements in Article XXI-D of the Administrative Code for the Department of Health (DOH) to submit a biweekly COVID-19 testing report to the General Assembly and health care providers that order COVID-19 testing to report a patients’ self-reported demographic data to DOH by one year, until December 31, 2022.

The bill requires the Secretary of Health to issue a request for proposal to obtain additional physical space to locate state-owned COVID-19 testing equipment and process the anticipated volume of COVID-19 tests. The Secretary of Health is also required to ensure that state COVID-19 testing equipment if fully operational.

The bill also establishes the COVID-19 At-Home Testing Program within DOH, which requires DOH to acquire at-home COVID-19 tests and distribute the tests to counties. Counties that receive at-home COVID-19 tests from DOH may distribute tests at publicly accessible mobile and nontraditional testing sites.

FISCAL IMPACT: Enactment of this legislation would require DOH to utilize no less than $10 million of the $752 million in federal funds currently available in the COVID – Epidemiology and Laboratory Surveillance and Response appropriation for the COVID-19 At-Home Testing Program. The provisions that require the Secretary of Health to issue a request for proposal to obtain additional physical space to locate COVID-19 testing equipment could result in the Commonwealth incurring costs, which are indeterminable at this time.

PREPARED BY: Nick McClure
House Appropriations Committee (R)

DATE: December 15, 2021

Estimates are calculated using the best information available. Actual costs and revenue impact incurred may vary from estimates.