

Department of Planning and Budget 2001 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB2355

House of Origin	<input type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron Weatherholtz

3. Committee Agriculture

4. Title Levy of excise tax on apples

5. Summary/Purpose: This bill provides for the holding of a referendum on the continuation of the levy of an excise tax on apples produced in Virginia. The referendum shall be held if the Virginia State Horticultural Society or at least 10 percent of apple producers petition the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services for a referendum. Those who paid an excise tax in the previous tax year may vote in the referendum. If a majority of those voting in the referendum are opposed to the continuation of the levy of an excise tax, the excise tax will be repealed.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Preliminary (See, Item 8)

7. Budget amendment necessary: No

8. Fiscal implications: The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services estimates that the cost of conducting the referendum would be \$10,000 which would be paid from existing balances from apple excise tax revenues. The department currently has a nongeneral fund appropriation that supports the Apple Board to which this charge can be expensed. If the referendum to continue the excise tax on apples fails, the Virginia State Apple Board would have no operating funds and lose an estimated \$318,000 each fiscal year. The Board would be forced to curtail its existing activities or disband. If the referendum to continue the excise tax on apples passes, there will be no fiscal impact and the operation of the Virginia State Apple Board will continue.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; Apple growers, packers, processors and shippers

10. Technical amendment necessary: None

11. Other comments: The fiscal impact would be realized starting in FY 03 due to the effective date of March 15, 2002.

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cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade

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