

Department of Planning and Budget 2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number HB497

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

2. Patron Orrock

3. Committee Passed Both Houses

4. Title Citizen water quality monitoring program

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill requires the Department of Environmental Quality to establish a citizen water quality monitoring program to provide technical assistance and possibly grants to support citizen water quality monitoring groups if (i) the monitoring is done pursuant to a memorandum of agreement with the Department, (ii) the project or activity is consistent with the Department of Environmental Quality's water quality monitoring program, (iii) the monitoring is conducted in a manner consistent with the Virginia Citizens Monitoring Methods Manual, and (iv) the location of the water quality monitoring activity is part of the water quality control plan required under the Code of Virginia. The bill also provides that the results of such citizen monitoring may not be used as evidence in any enforcement action.

6. Fiscal impact: See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: There would be no significant additional costs to the Department of Environmental Quality associated with implementation of this legislation. The agency already has a citizen water quality monitoring program that provides grants to citizen water quality monitoring groups. The 2002 Introduced Budget Bill included \$65,000 for such grants in each year of the next biennium as well as \$61,500 in each year of the next biennium for earmarked funding. These amounts were not amended by the conferees. In addition, the conferees included language stating that it is the intent of the General Assembly that funds that were provided by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to the Lake Anna Advisory Committee for hydrilla eradication (\$50,000) may be used to establish the Lake Anna Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Project.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Department of Environmental Quality.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 03/14/02/mar

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources