

Department of Planning and Budget 2002 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB460

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: Hawkins

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Establish the Roanoke River Basin Commission

- 5. Summary/Purpose:** This bill would establish the Roanoke River Basin Commission, which is composed of the representatives of planning district commissions located within the Basin, state legislators, a member of Congress, and nonvoting ex-officio nonvoting members representing the interests of North Carolina. The Commission is advisory and has no regulatory authority. Its purposes include: (i) providing guidance and making recommendations to local, state and federal legislative and administrative bodies on the use, stewardship, and enhancement of the water and other natural resources within the Basin; (ii) providing a forum for discussion of issues affecting the Basin's water quality, water quantity, and natural resources; (iii) promoting communication, coordination, and education among stakeholders; (iv) identifying Basin-related problems and recommending solutions; and (v) conducting joint meetings and communicating with North Carolina legislative and administrative bodies.

This bill also incorporates the establishment of the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission as proposed in SB553. This Commission becomes effective January 1, 2003, or upon enactment of similar legislation by the State of North Carolina, whichever occurs last. The Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission is a bi-state advisory body composed of 18 citizen members, with nine members representing Virginia and nine members representing North Carolina. Those appointed to serve as members of the Commission are to represent a variety of interest groups, including permit holders, forestry and agricultural organizations, local government officials, and soil and water conservation districts. State legislators from both states may be nonvoting ex-officio members of the Commission. The Commission has no regulatory authority. Its purposes include: (i) providing guidance and making recommendations to local, state and federal legislative and administrative bodies on the use, stewardship, and enhancement of the water and other natural resources within the Basin; (ii) providing a forum for discussion of issues affecting the Basin's water quality, water quantity, and natural resources; (iii) promoting communication, coordination, and education among stakeholders; and (iv) identifying Basin-related problems and recommending solutions.

6. Fiscal Impact: See Item 8.

7. Budget amendment necessary: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal implications: Sections 62.1-69.40 and 62.1-47 of the proposed legislation state that "funding for the Commission shall be a shared responsibility of the state and planning district

commissions.”This bill has a fiscal impact only if funding is provided by the General Assembly. The conferees provided no funding for the Commission.

- 9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Secretary of Natural Resources;
Localities in the Roanoke River Basin

- 10. Technical amendment necessary:** None

- 11. Other comments:** SB553 which establishes the Roanoke River Basin Commission, and SB 460 which establishes the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission, were rolled into one bill, SB460, by the House Rules Committee. SB553 has been tabled. SB460 is identical to HB1279 as passed by the House and the Senate.

Date: 3/18/02/djy

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