

## Department of Planning and Budget 2003 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** SB1173

**House of Origin**    ☒ Introduced    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Engrossed

**Second House**    ☐ In Committee    ☐ Substitute    ☐ Enrolled

**2. Patron**        Puckett

**3. Committee**    Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

**4. Title**           Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy permit and license fees.

**5. Summary/Purpose:**

The bill increases the cost of permits and licenses issued by the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy. Twelve of the fees are set by statute, while two fees are set by regulation. The bill contains enactment clauses directing the Virginia Gas and Oil Board and the Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy to increase those two fees and exempt those regulatory amendments from the Administrative Process Act.

**6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are final.**

**6a. Expenditure Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2002-03	0	0	N/a
2003-04	835,859	0	NGF
2004-05	835,859	0	NGF

**6b. Revenue Impact:**

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Positions</i>	<i>Fund</i>
2002-03	0	0	N/a
2003-04	835,859	0	NGF
2004-05	835,859	0	NGF

**7. Budget amendment necessary:**

Yes, language in items 121, 122, and 124.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

The primary manner in which the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME) addresses issues of eliminating accidents, injuries, and fatalities in Virginia coal and mineral mines and coal bed methane wells, and eliminating adverse environmental conditions and public safety hazards resulting from mineral and fossil fuel extraction is through regular inspections. DMME is regularly inspecting all active and inactive surface and underground coal mines, mineral mines, gas and oil exploration, and production operations. These inspection and enforcement activities are supported by general fund dollars, federal funds, and special funds generated from permit and license fees paid by operators.

The bill increases the amount of the permit and license fees assessed and collected by DMME based on inflation. Many of the permit and license fees collected by DMME have remained unchanged since the 1970s, others were last increased in the early 1990s. The additional revenue would be used to support agency operations, supplanting general fund dollars removed from the agency's operating budget in the Introduced Budget Bill. Sufficient appropriation for the additional revenue is included in SB 700.

Based on an increase to each fee by approximately 80.5 percent of the amount that would be required to make up for inflation based on the Consumer Price Index, \$835,859 in additional special fund revenue would be generated.

**9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:**

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

**10. Technical amendment necessary:**

No.

**11. Other comments:**

A companion bill, HB 2465, is currently in the House Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources.

**Date:** 01/15/03/tmw

**Document:** G:\2003Session \ImpactStatements \Sb1173.Doc Toni Walker

cc: Secretary of Commerce and Trade  
Secretary of Finance