

Department of Planning and Budget
2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB 1088

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☒ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron Watkins

3. Committee Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title Virginia Environmental Excellence Program

5. Summary/Purpose: The bill would codify the existing environmental excellence program and give the Air Pollution Control Board, the Virginia Waste Management Board, and the State Water Control Board the authority to approve alternative compliance methods. Such alternative compliance methods would include, but not be limited to, changes to monitoring and reporting requirements and schedules, streamlined submission requirements for permit renewals, the ability to make certain operational changes without prior approval, and other changes that would not increase a facility's impact on the environment. The alternative methods would be available only to those facilities that have demonstrated a strong compliance record, and only if the proposed compliance method would (i) meet the purpose of the applicable regulatory standard; (ii) promote achievement of those purposes through increased reliability, efficiency, or cost effectiveness; and (iii) afford environmental protection equal to or greater than that provided by the applicable regulatory standard. The bill also would establish Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards.

6. Fiscal impact: Participants in the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program are currently provided opportunities to be eligible for reduced annual permit fees. With an increase in the number of participants, there could potentially be a reduction in permit fee revenues associated with the program's incentives. However, any such reductions would likely be offset by a corresponding reduction in workload for regulatory compliance due to the participation of those firms or local governments in the Virginia Environmental Excellence Program.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications: See Item 6.

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

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 02/04/2005 / mar

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources