

Department of Planning and Budget 2005 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number SB1141

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

2. Patron Hanger

3. Committee Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources

4. Title Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources.

5. Summary/Purpose:

Creates the Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources to develop and encourage the nonregulatory conservation programs within the agencies of the Secretariats of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Forestry and to foster collaboration and partnerships among businesses, communities, and the Commonwealth's environmental enhancement programs. The bill also establishes the Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources Trust Fund.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates are: Indeterminate. See item 8, below.

7. Budget amendment necessary: No.

8. Fiscal implications:

The Foundation is to be governed by a Board of Trustees, which will be comprised of 13 citizen members with each member representing each of the 13 major river basins. Responsibilities of the Foundation include, but are not limited to, the development of goals and guidelines for submittal and evaluation of grant application for funds from the Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the submittal of a biennial executive summary of the interim activity and work of the Board. The Foundation must submit the summary to the Governor and General Assembly each regular session of the General Assembly. The bill also directs the Board to seek assistance in developing grant criteria, advice on grant priorities, and any other appropriate issues from a task force comprised of representatives from the departments of Conservation and Recreation, Agriculture and Consumer Services, Forestry, Historic Resources, Game and Inland Fisheries, Environmental Quality, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

The bill provides for the reimbursement of expenses, such as meals, travel, and mileage, incurred by members of the Board in the performance of their duties. However, members are to receive no compensation for their services. Such reimbursements are to be paid out of the fund created by the bill, the Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources Trust Fund.

The bill further requires the Board to meet at least four times a year. As each member is entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, such as attendance of such meetings, there will be a fiscal impact associated with the bill. However, the impact is

unknown. A source of funding for payments of such reimbursements, until the Fund is capitalized, is not identified in the proposed legislation.

The Foundation for Virginia's Natural Resources Trust Fund is to consist of general fund moneys, gifts, endowments, or grants from the United States government, its agencies and instrumentalities, and from any other available sources, public or private.

It is likely that the departments that are part of the task force established in the bill will develop the Foundation's biennial report to the Governor and General Assembly required by the bill. It is anticipated that any fiscal impact to those agencies will be minimal.

9. Specific agency or political subdivisions affected: Departments of Conservation and Recreation, Agriculture and Consumer Services, Forestry, Historic Resources, Game and Inland Fisheries, Environmental Quality, and Accounts, and the Virginia Museum of Natural History.

10. Technical amendment necessary: No.

11. Other comments: The bill does not capitalize Virginia's Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Date: 02/07/05/tmw

Document: G:\2005 Session\Legislation\Sb1141E.Doc

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources
Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry