

## Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number** HB1942

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

**2. Patron** Purkey, H.

**3. Committee** House Committee on General Laws

**4. Title** Administrative Process Act; economic impact analysis of regulations to members of G.A., report.

**5. Summary/Purpose:** HB 1942, Engrossed, would amend the *Code of Virginia* at §2.2-4007.H.2 to require that the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) distribute to members of the General Assembly copies of the Economic Impact Analysis of regulations that are currently posted on the Regulatory Town Hall website.

**6. No fiscal impact.** See Item 8, below.

**7. Budget amendment necessary:** No.

**8. Fiscal implications:**

Current General Assembly Access to Economic Impact Analyses (EIAs)

In calendar 2006, DPB economists prepared Economic Impact Analyses (EIAs) on 125 non-emergency regulations. Legislators and their staff can access the EIAs in two ways:

- A one-time search of the Regulatory Town Hall website, found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.townhall.virginia.gov/>.
- An automated notification regarding EIAs of all or a selected type(s) of regulations.

DPB designed Virginia's Regulatory Town Hall to allow users to specify targeted types of information that they would like to receive automatically on a quick turnaround basis. Users can ask to receive notification about either regulatory actions or meetings or both. They may specify the following parameters:

- Secretariat(s)
- Agency(ies)
- Board(s) or chapters of the *Administrative Code*

The Town Hall will then “push” the requested information out to users without the necessity of regular user searches. This feature is available to legislators and their staffs, as well as to the general public.

Town Hall routinely sends EIA notifications at the point in the regulatory process when the EIA, the agency response to the EIA, and the exact wording of the proposed regulation are submitted to the Registrar for publication in the *Virginia Register*.<sup>1</sup> Thus, the DPB EIA, along with the regulating agency’s response to the EIA, is available to users ten or more days before their publication in the *Register*.

Direct Distribution of Economic Impact Analyses to Individual Legislators Pursuant to HB 1942, Engrossed

Within its current resources, DPB could distribute an electronic version of the EIA or a notification of its posting, with appropriate World Wide Web link, to every legislator via electronic mail at the same time that it posts the EIA and the agency response to the Town Hall for public viewing. This distribution would occur after Executive Branch review of the regulation but before the Proposed Stage public comment period, possible subsequent revision of the regulation, and submission of the Final Stage regulation to the Registrar.

Cost of HB 1942, Engrossed

If appropriate General Assembly staff can work with DPB to enable automated Town Hall electronic submissions to an electronic distribution list of current General Assembly e-mail addresses, the distribution could be absorbed by the current DPB budget as part of its on-going information technology (IT) development efforts.

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

Department of Planning and Budget; all members of the General Assembly

**10. Technical amendment necessary: No**

**11. Other comments: None**

**Date:** 02/07/2007 / rmc

**Document:** HB1942E.doc

cc: Secretary of Finance

---

<sup>1</sup> DPB issues Economic Impact Analyses (EIAs) on (a) all Fast Track regulations (non-controversial regulations that are unlikely to elicit extensive public comment) and (b) all other non-emergency regulations during their “Proposed Stage” prior to publication of the final regulation. Thus, the EIAs are available to policy makers and the public during the comment periods. An EIA written on a Proposed or Fast-track Stage regulation is not modified in the Final Stage of issuance in response to changes subsequently made in the proposed regulation. In addition, no EIAs are done on Emergency Regulations (mandated by the General Assembly) or regulations issued by agencies or about topics exempted in legislation from the full regulatory review process.