

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB3113

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☒ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Landes

3. **Committee:** Passed both Houses

4. **Title:** Virginia Board of Environmental Quality

5. **Summary/Purpose:** The bill consolidates the State Air Pollution Control Board, the State Water Control Board, and the Waste Management Board into one eleven-member citizen board, the Virginia Board of Environmental Quality, with the authority to adopt regulations, including general permit regulations. All other responsibilities of the existing boards, including the authority to issue licenses and permits, shall be transferred to the Department of Environmental Quality. The department will hold public meetings for the presentation of staff recommendations on major permitting decisions. A citizen appeals board is established and granted the authority to hear appeals on decisions of the Director of the Department of Environmental Quality and to recommend reconsideration by the director. The bill includes a re-enactment clause that requires the General Assembly of 2008 to reaffirm the legislation and delays the effective date until July 1, 2008.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Final. See item 8.

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

8. **Fiscal implications:** According to the Department of Environmental Quality, consolidation of the environmental boards would result in some efficiencies, most notably in less staff time devoted to board meetings. These savings will not result in a staff reduction opportunity. Rather, regional staff and management would be able to redirect the saved time toward support of permit and regulatory oversight responsibilities.

The bill may result in a minimal cost savings estimated at \$16,000 annually associated with travel to board meetings. However, these costs are embedded within the operating cost of each regional office, and the reduction in travel costs for board meetings will likely be offset by overall inflationary increases in travel costs for the department. In addition, there may be costs associated with the public meetings for presentation of staff recommendations on major permitting decisions.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Department of Environmental Quality, State Air Pollution Control Board, State Water Control Board, and Waste Management Board.

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** No.

11. Other comments: None.

Date: 2/26/07 kbs

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources