

Department of Planning and Budget 2007 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number** SB1136

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☒ In Committee ☒ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron** McDougle

3. **Committee** General Laws

4. **Title** Council on Indians.

5. **Summary/Purpose:** This bill changes the membership of the Council from its current inclusion of legislative members, to consist only of (i) the chiefs of the Virginia tribes officially recognized by the Commonwealth, (ii) two members appointed at large by the Governor from the Indian population residing in Virginia, and (iii) one nonvoting member appointed by the Governor who is a senior member of his staff. In accordance with these changes, this bill removes the Council as being excluded from the provisions of §2.2-2101, which detail rules of prohibition against service by legislators on boards. The bill also provides for the chair and vice-chair to be elected from the membership annually, and authorizes each tribal chief to appoint a designee to serve as his representative at meetings and other activities of the Council. In addition, this bill establishes a non voting advisory committee to perform duties assigned by the Council.

6. **Fiscal Impact Estimates are:** Preliminary, see Item 8 (below)

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

8. **Fiscal implications:** The bill specifies that the members of the Council shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. Historically, these reimbursement costs have consisted almost entirely of travel expenses. Since this bill reduces the number of members on the Council from 16 to 11, there is the possibility of some fiscal savings; however spending records for the Council indicate that few members have consistently requested reimbursement for travel expenses. It is therefore unlikely that there would be savings even after a membership reduction. The bill stipulates that funding for the costs of expenses of the members of the Council shall be provided by the Office of the Governor.

9. **Specific agency or political subdivisions affected:** Council on Indians (within the Office of the Secretary of Natural Resources).

10. **Technical amendment necessary:** None.

11. **Other comments:** This bill also establishes an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of recognized and non-recognized Indian tribes. The bill specifies that the Committee is to perform duties assigned by the Council, but is silent with regard to any compensation or source of funding to cover Committee expenses.

Date: 2/19/07 / aek

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources