

Department of Planning and Budget 2008 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB511

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

2. Patron: Whipple

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: **Natural resources funding.**

5. Summary: The substitute bill establishes the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund as a subfund of the Water Quality Improvement Fund to support the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost-Share Program for the implementation of agricultural best management practices (BMP). Fifty-seven percent of the moneys are to be used for matching grants to implement BMPs on agricultural lands exclusively in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and 38 percent of the moneys would be used for all other lands in the Commonwealth. Five percent of the moneys would be allocated to soil and water conservation districts.

6. Fiscal Impact Estimates: The bill does not have a fiscal impact. See item 8.

7. Budget Amendment Necessary: No. A budget amendment is not needed until moneys are appropriated to the fund.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill directs that the Virginia Natural Resources Commitment Fund will be capitalized by amounts appropriated and other funds made available from any other source, public or private. The bill specifies that the fund will be used for the Agricultural Best Management Practices Cost Share program and divided between matching grants for lands within the Chesapeake Bay watershed (57 percent), matching grants for all other lands (38 percent) and local soil and water conservation districts (five percent).

The bill does not provide for either funding or positions for the Department of Conservation and Recreation to administer the cost share grants. The soil and water conservation districts provide the technical assistance for the program, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation administers the funding.

The bill provides a means to make funding available for the agricultural best management practices cost share program in addition to the mandatory deposits to the Water Quality Improvement Fund. Current provisions of the Water Quality Improvement Fund direct any supplemental deposits to point source pollution reduction through upgrades of publicly owned water treatment works.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation, soil and water conservation districts.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The substitute bill is identical to House Bill 1335.

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cc: Secretary of Natural Resources