

**Department of Planning and Budget
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: HB1159

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

2. Patron: Sickles

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake, and Natural Resources

4. Title: Possession of shark fins; penalty.

5. Summary: This bill bans the possession, sale, offering for sale, trading, or distribution of shark fins, with certain exceptions for licensees and restaurants. The bill also provides that any violation of this provision is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that this bill will have no significant fiscal impact on the Virginia Marine Resources Commission.

The legislation could, however, result in an increase in the jail population since Class 1 misdemeanor outcomes result in sentences of up to 12 months in jail (and a fine up to \$2,500). Any increase in jail population will increase costs to the state. The Commonwealth presently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanant or otherwise local responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds most of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs on a per prisoner, per day basis varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's FY 2010 Jail Cost Report (November 1, 2011), the estimated total state support for local and regional jails averaged \$29.98 per state inmate, per day in FY 2010.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Marine Resources Commission; state and local courts, jails, correctional facilities.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.

Date: 1/20/12

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