

Department of Planning and Budget 2013 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1279

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

2. Patron: Hanger

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Consolidation of water quality programs.

5. Summary: This bill moves the water quality programs currently administered by the Department of Conservation and Recreation to the Department of Environmental Quality. The Department of Environmental Quality and the State Water Control Board will have oversight of water quality planning and laws dealing with stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas. The composition of the Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board is changed, reducing the number of voting members from 12 to seven, and the Department of Environmental Quality is assigned responsibility for staffing the Board. The Virginia Soil and Water Conservation Board will continue its oversight responsibilities of the soil and water conservation districts and of resource management planning. The Board of Conservation and Recreation will be responsible for administration of the flood prevention and dam safety laws.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No, the bill contains an enactment clause that authorizes the agencies to administratively transfer appropriation and positions associated with these programs.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary; see item 8, below.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation and Recreation anticipate this action to be budget neutral and do not expect any short-term savings with the transfer of functions. The agencies have identified approximately \$51.25 million in appropriation along with 122 full-time equivalent positions for transfer. Some general administrative functions and related funding have yet to be finalized.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Environmental Quality

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB2048 is the companion bill.

Date: 02/01/2013

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