

Department of Planning and Budget

2014 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB 243

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

2. Patron: Edwards

3. Committee: Commerce and Labor

4. Title: Designate the Blue Ridge Highlands region to enhance tourism development efforts of the Virginia Tourism Authority

5. Summary: The bill would require that the Virginia Tourism Authority designate the Blue Ridge Highlands region to consist of the cities of Bristol, Galax, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem and the counties of Bland, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe.

Currently, the Blue Ridge Highlands region includes the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Radford and the counties of Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill would result in additional costs to the Virginia Tourism Authority to update the state tourism website (Virginia.org) and to update its photo library and maps. The Authority would need to make changes to the database underlying the website. In addition, other website content that is tied to regions (region, city and locality-specific pages, articles, etc.) will need be updated. However, any such costs associated with these updates could be handled within existing resources.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Tourism Authority; cities of Bristol, Galax, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem; counties of Bland, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: Yes. On line 13, Smyth County is misspelled; in the bill it is spelled "Smythe" while the correct spelling is "Smyth."

11. Other Comments. This bill is the companion to HB366.