

Department of Planning and Budget

2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1298

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

2. Patron: Morris

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Noncommercial vessels; probable cause.

5. Summary: Requires conservation police officers, Marine Resources Commission inspectors, and other law-enforcement officers to have probable cause before stopping, boarding, or inspecting a noncommercial vessel on the navigable waters of the Commonwealth.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See Item 8, below.

8. Fiscal Implications: Under § 29.1-745, Code of Virginia, the Marine Police may board boats without cause for purposes of performing a safety check. The safety checks provide the Marine Police the opportunity to, with permission, engage in finfish inspections. As part of the Marine Resources Commission's agreement with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), MRC engages in finfish enforcement work to help ensure the Commonwealth is in compliance with quotas established by ASMFC on recreational catch limits. MRC believes that the majority of its safety checks will no longer be permitted, and its interaction with recreational boaters will be greatly decreased. Thereby limiting MRC's ability to engage in finfish enforcement, and potentially impacting the AMSFC funding. MRC receives approximately \$182,000 annually in federal grants for finfish enforcement through the ASMFC.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Marine Resources Commission.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.