

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB1924-H1

House of Origin ☐ Introduced ☒ Substitute ☐ Engrossed

Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Hodges

3. **Committee:** Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. **Title:** Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee established.

5. **Summary:** Establishes the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) to assist the State Water Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in developing, revising, and implementing a management strategy for ground water in the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Area. The Committee shall develop specific statutory, budgetary, and regulatory recommendations, as necessary, to implement its recommendations. The Committee shall report the results of its examination and related recommendations to the State Water Commission and the Director of the DEQ no later than August 1, 2017. The Director of DEQ shall issue a report responding to the Committee's recommendations to the Governor, the State Water Commission, the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission no later than November 1, 2017. The bill has a sunset date of January 1, 2018.

The third enactment clause prohibits the issue of draft permits that would require reductions in volumes of ground water withdrawals prior to December 31, 2015.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** This bill establishes the Eastern Virginia Groundwater Management Advisory Committee (the Committee) to assist the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in developing, revising, and implementing a management strategy for ground water. The committee shall be composed of nonlegislative citizen members that shall not receive compensation for their service or reimbursement for expenses. According to DEQ, there could be some expenditure increase due to management of the committee, but any anticipated fiscal impact could be absorbed within existing resources.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** The Department of Environmental Quality, and localities.

10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

11. **Other Comments:** This is a companion to SB 1341-S1.