

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2015 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB2331

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

**2. Patron:**        Webert

**3. Committee:** Passed Both Houses.

**4. Title:**         Definition of fur-bearing animal.

**5. Summary:** This bill defines the fisher as a fur-bearing animal in hunting and trapping provisions of the Code of Virginia. The fisher (*Martes pennanti*) is a small carnivorous mammal native to North America. It is a member of the weasel family.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Final.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** It is anticipated that, at this time, this bill will not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. According to the department, populations of the fisher are low in the Commonwealth. If the population were to increase to a level deemed sufficient to sustain a limited harvest, then it may be appropriate for the agency to establish a trapping season for this species.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

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

**11. Other Comments:** None.