

Department of Planning and Budget 2015 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB1419

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: McWaters

3. Committee: Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

4. Title: Virginia crab meat label.

5. Summary: Makes it a Class 3 misdemeanor for any person to represent or label a container as containing Virginia crab meat unless 100 percent of the crab meat is from crabs taken from or caught in Virginia waters.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

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

8. Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact of the bill is indeterminate. The bill may have a revenue and expenditure impact.

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is responsible for enforcement of this bill. This bill requires that 100 percent of crab meat in containers represented or labeled as Virginia crab meat be from crabs caught in Virginia waters. According to VDH, potential fiscal impacts identified with this requirement would be associated with the oversight and enforcement costs that would be required of VDH. For the following reasons, these costs cannot be determined:

1. No analytical method exists to distinguish Virginia crab meat from that any of a number of other states that harvest the same species of crab; and,
2. VDH has no information on the number of Virginia processing facilities that currently process crabs from other state harvests or the volume of crabs from other states that are processed in these facilities.

The punishment for a Class 3 misdemeanor is a fine of up to \$500, which is deposited to the Literary Fund. The revenue impact is indeterminate, and would depend on the number of convictions.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Virginia Department of Health; court system.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: There would also be a fiscal impact to the crab meat industry associated with additional container labeling and inventory of additional containers.