

## Department of Planning and Budget 2016 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB640

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

**2. Patron:** Miyares

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

**4. Title:** Moratorium on oyster leases.

**5. Summary:** Directs the Marine Resources Commission to place a six-month moratorium on oyster leases in Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay in the City of Virginia Beach for the purpose of planting or propagating oysters. During this period, the Commission is directed to notify all riparian landowners in Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay of their statutory right to lease oyster grounds in the waters abutting their property. Also during this period, the Commission may notify all recreational users of waters and riparian landowners in Broad Bay and Linkhorn Bay of the laws governing the leasing of oyster planting grounds through a notice published in a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Virginia Beach.

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

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8, below.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The Habitat Management Division in the Marine Resources Commission is responsible for surveying and mapping subaqueous ground for public and private shellfish cultivation, leasing private shellfish grounds, and maintaining oyster ground lease records. The agency anticipates some costs associated with this bill including (i) staff time researching riparian owners, (ii) postage for notification correspondence to riparian landowners, and (iii) placing notices in published newspaper(s). It is anticipated that any expenditure impact to the Marine Resources Commission can be absorbed with existing resources.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Marine Resources Commission; City of Virginia Beach.

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

**11. Other Comments:** Similar to SB254. SB254 suspends until July 1, 2017, the assignment of general oyster grounds or transfer of any assigned oyster grounds in the Lynnhaven River or its tributaries.