

Department of Planning and Budget 2017 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1562

House of Origin ☒ Introduced ☐ Substitute ☐ Engrossed
Second House ☐ In Committee ☐ Substitute ☐ Enrolled

2. Patron: Cole

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund.

5. Summary: Authorizes the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to disburse moneys from the Dam Safety, Flood Prevention and Protection Assistance Fund in the form of grants or loans to common interest communities, as defined in § 54.1-2345, Code of Virginia, that own dams in order to protect public safety and welfare. The grants can be used for the design, repair, and the safety modifications of dams identified in safety reports.

Also, strikes the provision authorizing the Director of DCR to disburse moneys from the Fund in the form of loans to private entities.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: The bill expands the entities to whom DCR may disburse funds from the Fund in the form of grants and loans. As such, the bill may increase demand for moneys from the Fund for dam repair and rehabilitation projects. HB 1500, as introduced, provides \$464,294 in each year for deposit to the Fund for competitive awards. Additionally, the Code allows DCR to expend up to 50 percent of the deposits made to the Fund during the previous fiscal year on grants.

In addition to providing for the deposit of \$464,294 to the Fund in FY 2017 and FY 2018, the Introduced Budget Bill also directs the Virginia Resources Authority, which administers the Fund, to pay to the general fund \$544,711 from uncommitted balances in the Fund in FY 2017.

Currently, DCR awards between 50 and 100 small grants to complete the following eligible projects: dam break inundation zone analysis, mapping, and digitization; probable maximum precipitation impact analysis and certification; emergency action plan development; incremental damage analysis; spillway capacity analysis; engineering and design for dam repairs.

In FY 2014 and FY 2015, the department awarded funding to 184 applicants on a competitive basis. During this time period, the department received requests from funded applicants totaling \$8.0 million, and awarded \$1.0 million toward the projects. The average request was for \$43,982 per project (total cost including match) and we awarded \$5,435 per project.

The department anticipates initiating a new grant round on February 15, 2017. Statute allows the department to pay up to 50 percent of the total cost of a project

In addition to grants and loans, the department is authorized to use the fund for various studies and other allowances that help the department meet its Dam Safety and Floodplain Management obligations.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Conservation and Recreation.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The type of projects funded generally include the following:

Dam Safety (for government and private entities)

- Dam Break Inundation Zone Analysis, Mapping, and Digitization
- Probable Maximum Precipitation Impact Analysis and Certification
- Hazard Classification Analysis ACER M-11
- Emergency Action Plan Development
- Incremental Damage Analysis
- Spillway Capacity Analysis
- Engineering and Design for Dam Repairs

Flood Prevention and Protection (for government entities):

- Community Outreach, Information, and Educational Programs
- Ordinance Revisions
- Development of Flood Cost Reduction & Resiliency Standards
- Locality Flood Warning and Response Systems such as Reverse 911 and IFLOWS
- Improvements to Locality Floodplain Program and Acceptance in Community Rating System

SB1079 also authorizes the Director of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to disburse moneys from the Fund in the form of grants or loans to common interest communities. SB1079 retains the current provision that allows for loans to private entities.